

The most Delectable
HISTORY
OF
Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected, and purged from all
grossness in Phrase and Matter.

As also, Augmented and Inlarged with sundry excellent
Morals, and Expositions upon every several Chapter.



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REYNARD



The Epistle to the Reader.

THOU hast here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightful History of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and low stile (couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden Wisdom, worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course and commercement of thy Life and Actions: for, the aim at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of Vice, and the advancement of the Good and Virtuous.

Now, forasmuch as hitherto it hath flown into the World (like *Sybila's* loose

The Epistle to the Reader.

Papers) covered with much obscurity and darkness: I have for thy more ease and contentment, to every several Chapter, annexed the Morals and Expositions of such dark places, as may hold thy Judgment, in seeking to find out a Labyrinth so dark and curious. A labour, which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly Guide it will keep thy meditations from wandering astray; and as a pleasant Companion, hold thee with such delightful discourse, that thy Journey therein, will neither be long nor irksome; at which End, if it arrive with a fair safety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this, and other mens Endeavours.

Farewell.



The Pleasant
HISTORY
O F
Reynard the FOX.

CHAP. I.

How the Lyon Proclaimed a Solemn Feast at his Court, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf and his Wife, and *Curtise* the Hound, made their complaints of *Reynard* the Fox.



AT the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitsontide) when the Woods are in their lusty hood and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the green and white Libery of glorious leaves, and sweet smelling blossoms, and the earth covered in her fairest Mantle of Flowers, which the Bizds with much joy entertain with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Even at this time, and entrance of the lusty Spring, the Lyon, the Royal King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden; and to that end (by solemn Proclamation) makes known over all his Kingdom to all Beasts whatsoever, that upon pain to be held contemptuous, every one should resort to that great celebration; so that with in few days after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great & small,

The pleasant History

Small came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their several complaints against the Fox, but especially Negrin the Wolf, who being the first and principallest complaint, came with all his lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner :

My dread and dearest Sovereign Lord the King I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses and unsufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family : of which to give your Highness some taste, know (if it please your Majesty) that this
Reynard



Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife, where finding my Childzen laid in my quiet couch, he so be-pist them in so rank a manner, that with the sharpness of his Urin they fell instantly blind: for this offence a day was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse himself, and to take a solemn oath that he was guiltless of that high injury: but as soon as the book was tendered before him, (he that well knew his own guiltiness) refused to swear, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Majesty and your Laws: This (my dread Lord) may not the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: For both this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespass against me, which to relate, neither the time nor your Highness patience would give sufferance thereunto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great, that none can exceed them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that I can neither bide nor suffer it unrevenge, but I must expect from him aments, and from your Majesty mercy.

The Moral.

Howsoever a vicious man perswades himself to escape punishment, by absenting himself from the presence of the Magistrate; yet he deceives himself, and by contempt, animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints against him, as appears here.

When

The pleasant History

When the Wolf had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curtise, who stepping forth, made likewise a gylevous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extream cold season of the winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and detained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustain his life, than one poor Pudding, which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.



of Reynard the Fox.

But the Hound could hardly let these words slip from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, he sprang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the King, said, My Lord the King I must confess the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions searched, each would have enough to do for his own clearing.

Touching the complaint of Curtise the Hound, it was an offence committed many years ago, and though I my self complain of no injury, yet was the Pudding mine, and not his; for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep, so that if Curtise could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine, Tibert, that it were a just or a good course, that Reynard should not be complained upon: why the whole world knows he is a murderer, a ravisher, and a thief; and that indeed he loveth not truly any Creature, no not his Majesty himself, but would suffer his Highness to lose both Honour and renown, so that he might thereby attain to himself but so much as the leg of a fat Hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kayward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings Protection, he promised unto Kayward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplain; he made him come sit between his legs, and sing and cry aloud, Credo, Credo: my way lay thereby, and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kayward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kayward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and profaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Laws, your Princely children many years hereafter shall bear the slander of his evil. Certainly Panther (said Itegrim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to live in peace.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 2.

How Grimbold the Brock spake for I eynard, before the King.

Then spake Grimbold the Brock (that was Reynards
sisters son) being much moved with anger : Ifegrim,



of Reynard the Fox.

You are malicious, and it is a common Proverb, Malice never *The Moral.*
 spake well? what can you say against my kinsman Reynard?

I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most in- *Vice is never*
jured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a fel- *without his*
lon? I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in *advocate, and*
the Kings favour as you are, it would be too little sa- *be a man ne-*
tisfaction for you to ask mercy: you have many times bitten *ver so lewd,*
and torn my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and much *yet he shall*
oftner then I can reckon; yet some I will call up to my re- *still find one*
membrance. *or other to*
plead for him,
especially

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaiſe *where there*
which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a *is either*
loof for fear? yet you devoured the good Plaiſe alone, and gave *greatness or*
him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat *wealth in the*
your self: the like you did of the fat flitch of Bacon, whose *offender, or*
taste was so good, that your self alone did eat it up, and when *any alliance*
my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorn, *of blood to*
Fair young man, thou shalt have thy share: but he got not any *those in fa-*
thing, albeit he won the Bacon with great fear and hazard; *vour, as ap-*
for the owner came and caught my kinsman in a Sack, from *pears here by*
whence he hardly escaped with life: many of those injuries *the Brock,*
hath Isegrim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships *which pleads*
judg if they be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my *for the Fox;*
kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true, and I con- *first, because*
fess Reynard hath lien with her, yet it was seven years be- *he was of his*
fore Isegrim did wed her, and if my Uncle out of courtesie did *kin, and next*
her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of *he was rich,*
the soze: nor ought he to complain of any thing not belonging *and able to*
to him; wisdom would have concealed it; for what credit *pleasure him;*
gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is not *lastly, here is*
grieved? *to be observ-*
ed, the infi-
nuation of
the advocate,
excusing the
Foxes faults
with a new
form of peni-
tence, cloak-
ing the ill
he had do ne
with zeal and
hypocrisie,
gotten then the

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which
to me seemed but a trifle, for if he will learn to read, and read
not his lesson aright, who will blame the Schoolmaster Rey-
nard, if he give him due correction? for if Scholars be not
beaten and chastised, they will never learn.

Lastly, complaineth Curſe, that he with great pain had
gotten

The Pleasant History

which no-
thing sooner
brings a good
man to belief
and forgive-
ness

gotten a Wadding in the Winter, being a season in which di-
anals are hard : methinks silence would have become
him better, for he had stolen it : and Male quesiti, & male per-
didisti, 'tis fit it was evil lost, 'twas evil won ; who can blame
Reynard to take stolen goods from a thief ; It is reason that
he which understands the Law, and can discern right, being
of great and high birth, as my kinsman is, do right unto the
Law ; Nay, had he hanged up Curtise when he took him in
that manner, he had offended none but the King, in doing
Justice without leave ; wherefore for respect to his Majesty
he did it not, though he reap little thanks for his labour : alas
how do those complaints hurt him ; mine Uncle is a Gentle-
man, and a true man, nor can he endure falsehood, he doth no-
thing without the counsel of the Priest : and I affirm, since
my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought
to hurt any man : for he eateth but once a day, he liveth as a
Recluse, he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of hair-
cloth : It is a year since he eat any flesh, (as I have been truly
informed by them which came but yesterday from him) he
hath forsaken his Castle Malepardus, and abandoned all Roy-
altie, a poor Hermitage retains him, hunting he hath for-
swozn, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only by alms
and good mens charities ; doing infinite penance for his sins,
so that he is become pale and lean with praying and fasting,
for he would faine be with God.

Thus whilst Grimbard his Nephew stood Preaching,
they perceiue coming down the hill unto them, Kent Chan-
tecleer the Cock, who brought upon a Bier a dead Hen, of
whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought to
the King to have knowledg thereof.

CHAP. 3.

*Chantecleer the Cock complained of Reynard the
Fox.*

CHANTECLEER marched foremost, smote pitiously his
Chandos & feathers, whilst on the other side the Bier, went
two



two sozrowful Vens, the one was Lantar, the other the good
Ven Cragant, being two of the fairest Vens between Holland
and Arden : these Vens boze each of them a straight bright
burning Taper, and these Vens were sisters to Coppel (which
lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried,
Alack, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppel our
bear

The pleasant History

The Moral. dear sister. Two young Vens bare the bier, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppel their mother, that the hills gave an echo to their clamour: thus being come befoze the King, Chantecler kneeling down, spake in this manner:

Most mercifal and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I beseech you to hear our complaint, and redress these injuries which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my children that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of April, when the weather was fair, I being then at the height of my pride and glory because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight balliant sons, and seven fair daughters, which my wife had hatch-ed, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled, and fenced round about, wherein they had in several Mews for their guard, six Bout Mastiff Dogs, which had torn the skins of many wild Beasts; so that my children feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling Traytor, enbriing their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogs divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price of his theft, and his torn skin witnessed; yet never the less he escaped, the more was the pity; yet we were quiet of his trouble a great while after; at last he came in the likeness of a Hermit, and brought me a letter to read, sealed with your Majesties Seal, in which I found written, that your Highness had made peace throughout all your Realm, and that no manner of Beasts or Fowl should do injury one to another; affirming unto me, that for his own part he was become a Monk or Cloystered Recluse, bowing to perform a dayly penance, for his sins: shewing unto me his Beads, and then ex-his Books and the hair shirt next to his skin, saying in humble wise unto me, Sir Chantecler, never henceforth be affraid of me, for I have bowed never more to eat flesh.

I am



I am now waxed old, and would only remember my soul,
therefore I take my leave: for I have yet my noon and my
even-song to say: which spake, he departed, saying his Credo
as he went, and layed him down under a Hawthorn, at this
I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and
closed my eyes together, and walked without the wall;
which

The Pleasant History

which I shall ever rue : for false Reynard lying under a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surprised one of my children, which he thrust up in his mail and bore away to my great sorrow; so having tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protect or keep him from us : Night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my children, he hath left but four unslughtered, and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which here lyeth dead on the Bier) was after her murder by a Kennel of hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me, and the loss of my fair children.

The Kings answer to the Cocks complaint, and how they sung the Dirge.

The Moral.

Then spake the King, Sir Grimbarde, hear you this of your Uncle the Archdeacon? he hath fasted and prayed well : well believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it : as for you Cantecler your complaint is heard, and shall be cured : to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right burial, and with solemn Dirge bring her to the earth with magnificence; which done, we will consult with our Lords, how to do you right and justice against the murderer. When began the plucked Domine, with all the verses belonging to it : which are too many to recite : and as soon as the Dirge was done, the body was interred, and upon it a fair Marble Stone laid, being polished as bright as glass : in which was engraven in great letters this inscription following, COPPEL Chanteclers daughter whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth here buried; Mourn thou that Reade it : For her Death may be seen was unjust and lamentable. After this, the King sent for his Lords and wisest Councillors to consult how this foul murder of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all delay to appear before the King, to answer the trespasses that

of Reynard the Fox.



honours and
right of bu-
rial done to
the Hen,
which is a
part of satis-
faction for
the grief her
king endured.
In the Bear's
willingness to
fetch the Fox
ise xprest
how apt a
malicious na-
ture is to be
employ'd in
any thing
that may
offend his ad-
versary, and
how com-
monly such
employments
miscarry.

delibered by Bruin the Bear: to all this the King gave con-
sent, & calling him before him, said, Sir Bruin, it is our pleasure
that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have
great regard to your self: for Reynard is full of policy, and
knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray; he hath a world
of snares to entangle you withal, and without great exercise
of judgment, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdom
breath,

The Pleasant History

breathing. My Lord (answered fir Bruin) let me alone with Reynard; I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of sollyte, the Bear departed: If his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well-speeding.

CHAP. V.

How Bruin the Bear sped with Reynard the Fox.



of Reynard the Fox.

The next morning away went Bruin the Bear in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever; and as he came through a dark Forest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus: for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruin was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tail) he called aloud, Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin your Kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you, and hath taken a great Oath, that if you fail to appear to this summons, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods & honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness mercy: Therefore, sake Kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court to shun the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was for the warm Sun-sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, (which labyrinth-wise he could pass thorow, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour; at last he came forth, and said, Dear Uncle Bruin you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slowness in coming; for at your first speech I was saying my Evening-song; and devotion must not be neglected: believe me, he hath done you no good service, nor do I thank him which hath sent you: this weary and long journey, in which you much sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord; yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as much as your counsel at this present, may return me noble benefit: Alas Uncle! could his Majesty find no meaner a

The pleasant History



The Moral.

In this Encounter between the Fox and the Bear, is expressed the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other mischief: wherein, though the wisest commonly get the victory at first; yet the just cause, in the end prevails.

messenger than your noble self to employ in these trivial affairs? truly it appears strange to me: especially since, next his Royal Self you are of greatest renown both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, for I fear our journey will be exceeding troublesome: for to speak truth, since I made my abstinence from flesh, I have eaten such strange new meats, that my body is very much disordered, and swelleth as if it would burst. Alas, dear Cousin, (said the Bear) what meat is this which makes you so ill? Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and mean; we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity, which others eat for wantonness: yet, not to delay you, that which I eat, was Honey-combs, great, full and most pleasant, which compelled by hunger, I eat too unmeasurably, and am therefore infinitely disordered. Ah quoth Bruin) Honey-combs; do you make such slight respect of them, Nephew? why it is meat for the greatest Emperors in the world: Fare ye, Nephew,

of Reynard the Fox.

phew; help me but to some of that honey, and command me whilst I live, for one little part thereof I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure said the Fox, (Uncle) you but jest with me. But jest with you replied Bruin besbrow my heart ther: for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick thereof, you shall make me the faithful'st of all your kindred. Nay (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal; only for your love sake, which above all things I desire. Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hybla and Portugal, yet I could in a short space eat it all, my self. Then know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwelleth a Husband-man named Lanier, who is master of so much honey, that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship I will put into your possession. Bruin mad upon the honey, swore, that to have but one good meal thereof he would not only be his faithful friend, but also stop the mouths of all his adversaries. Reynard, smiling at his easie belief, said If you will have seven Tun, Uncle, you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well, thought the Fox, this is good fortune; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would perform. The Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the Fox promising him as much honey as he could bear, but meant as many strokes as he could undergo: in the end, they came to Lanier's house, the sight whereof made the Bear rejoice. This Lanier was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oak, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges; in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoiced much for it was answerable to his wish, so that with a smiling countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now, dear Uncle, and be careful of your self,

The Bear's greediness to eat honey, is exprest, the lascivious inclination of a loose and unrestrained nature, that for a minutes enjoying of their own delights, quite forget the business and cares they have in hand. In the Fox, is exprest the cunning of wisdom, which ever cast out (to loose nature) those baits of delights; which, being swallowed with greediness, do ever choak the swallower, as appeareth by the bear; who is not self,

The Pleasant History

only your
dea; and in
danger of his
life, but also
made a mock
and scorn to
his enemies.
Also by the
cruelty used
on the Bear
by the com-
mon people,
is shewed,
how when an
ill man is
once snared
in his vices,
every one of
what degree
soever, from
the highest to
the lowest,
are ready to
prosecute
and revenge
themselves
for the ill
they have re-
ceived.



self; for within this tree is so much Honey, that it is unmea-
surable; try if you can get into it; yet good Uncle, eat moder-
ately: for albeit the Combs be sweet and good, yet a surfeit
is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body, which I
would not for a World. Since no harm can come to you, but
must be my dishonour. So row not for me, Nephew Reynard,
(said

of Reynard the Fox.

(said the Bear) noz think me such a fool, that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true, my best Uncle, I was too bold; I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with all haste entered the tree, with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite over the ears: which when the Fox perceived, he instantly ran and pull'd the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery noz anger availed the Bear, for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so fast a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas! what profiteth now his great strength and valour? why, they were both causes of more vexation, and he finding himself destitute of all relief, began to howl and baw, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise, that Lanfert, amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharp hook, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree: which the Fox afar off seeing, he said to the Bear in scorn, As the Honey good (Uncle) which



The pleasant Hintory

you eat? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you; pleasant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full) he will give you drink to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went toward his Castle. But by this time, Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree, he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there. Which being noised thowow all the Town, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither; some with one weapon, and some with another, as Goads, Rakes, Broom-staves, & what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Cross; the Clerk Holy-water sprinkled; and the Priest's wife, Dame Jullock with her Distaff, for she was then spinning: Nay, the old Weldams came, that had never a tooth in their heads. This army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundering upon him, he wrestled and pulled so extremly, that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also; insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast: for the blood covered all his face & his hands leaving the claws and skin behind him, nothing remaining but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to; for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be-cudgel'd him about his body-part, that it might well be a warning to all in misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked leg; and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leavened Ball, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor Sir Bruin, not so much, but Sir Bertoli with the long fingers. Lanfert and Ortam did him more annoyance than all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh-hook, the other a crooked staff well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stab-ball with, all,

of Reynard the Fox.

all, there was Birkin and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest, with his staff, and dame Jullock his wife, all these so belaboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor Bear in this distresse sate and sighed extreemly, groaning under the burthen of their strokes, of which Lanferts were the greatest, and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, and his Father was Marob the Steeple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruin receiued of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing befoze the rest with a staff, struck the Bear on the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see, so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adscynning through a cluster of Willows there standing together, of which he threw diuers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cryed to the rest of the company, help, oh help! Dame Jullock is in the water, help both men and women, for whosoever saues her, I giue free pardon of all there sins and transgressions, & remit all penance imposed whatsoeuer: this heard, every one left the Bear to help dame Jullock, which as soon as the Bear saw he cut the stream, and swam away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in his rage, Turn Villain, that I may be reuenged of thee, but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was so escaped from them: only he bitterly curst the Hony-tree, and the Fox, which had not only betrayed him, but had made him lose his blood from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: In this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary, that he went on the Land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face, he groaned sighed and drew his breath so short, as if his last hour had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat Hen, & throw her into his Dale, & running thorow a by-path that no man might perceiue him, he came to the River with infinite joy: for he suspected

The Pleasant History

that the Bear was certainly slain; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wisht it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead; nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these words, looking towards the River, he espied where Bruin the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, Silly fool that thou art, what mad-man would have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand? any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded & bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty; yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Monsieur, Dieu vous grade. O thou soul red villain, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanferts, or have you paid for the honey-combs you stole? if you have not, it will rebound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self, sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same price: Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new-fashioned Hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaven your crown, hath cropt your ears, also your foreskin is lost, and your gloves are gone; he shoden; go not bare-headed; they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruin mad with rage, but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure: then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam down the stream, and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court: for he had lost his ears, his Talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deaths followed him; he could not go, and yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; so by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile in the

of *Reynard the Fox.*

the end he tumbled to the Court; where others beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them; but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is Sir Bruin my servant? what villain has wounded him thus? or where hath he been, that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Sovereign Lord the King, (cried out the Bear) I complain grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you, revenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your Royal pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace & slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my Crown I swear, I will take revenge, which shall make the Traytor tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Councill, and consulted, how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity, as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for *Reynard the Fox.*

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other Beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fall at the first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity, that his example shall terrifie all offenders. Then said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advise'd you, for there is nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong & mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weakness avail? The King replied, It is your will.

The pleasant History

The Moral. By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is expressed the care of Governours, that when they have been deceived by the pride & ostentation of such as they did employ, and thought discreet; that then they seek out those that are known wise, and employ them; because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdom. In the Cats much loathness to go, is expressed, the unwillingness a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with great suspitions. Well said the Cat if it be your pleasure, I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-comb too pleasant & sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replieth it is meat I little respect, & seldom eat: I had rather have one Mouse, than all the honey.

dom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength, and many prevail with Art, when violence returns with lost labour. Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heaven make my fortune better than my heart presageth. Thus Tibert made things in readiness, and went to Malepardus, and in his journey, he saw come flying towards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat cried aloud, Hall gentle bird; I beseech thee turn thy wings and fly on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on his left side; then grew the Cat very heavy, for he was wise and skillful in Augurism, and knew the sign to be ominous; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself with better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found the Fox standing before the Castle gates to whom Tibert said, Health to my fair Cousin Reynard: so it is, that the King by me summons you to the Court, in which, if you fail or defer time, there is nothing more assured unto you, than a cruel and a sudden death. The Fox answered, Welcome dear Cousin Tibert, I obey your command and wish my Lord the King infinite days of happiness; only let me intreat you to rest with me to night, and take such cheer as my simple house affordeth, and to morrow as early as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no misgiving I trust so dearly as your self. Here was with me the other day, the treacherous Knight Sir Bruin the Bear, who look't upon me with that tyrannous cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire hazard my person with him; but my dear Cousin, with you I will go, were a thousand sickness upon me. Tibert replied, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Nay, dear Cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we encounter with our friends; the night is full of danger & suspitions. Well said the Cat if it be your pleasure, I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-comb too pleasant & sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replieth it is meat I little respect, & seldom eat: I had rather have one Mouse, than all the honey.

of Reynard the Fox.

Come in Europe. A mouse said Reynard) why my dear cousin, thority com-
 here dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house mands, they
 so full of mice, that I think half the Mains in the Parish are must obey,
 not able to bear them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do though never
 but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why so many dan-
 (said the Fox) but loke you mice so exceedingly? Beyond ex- gers attend.
 pression (quoth the Cat); why a mouse is beyond Venison, or
 the delicatest eates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me
 thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you
 slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly
 forgive you.

CHAP. 7.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the Fox.

THE Cat said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. Po by my
 life, said the Cat. Tell then (quoth the Fox) if you be in
 earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly;
 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me said the Fox,
 for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they
 went with all speed to the Priests Barn, which was well
 walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before
 the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceed-
 ing fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had
 set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next
 coming, which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said
 to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it
 you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more
 mice than you are able to devour: hark, you may hear how
 they squeek: when your belly is full, come again, and
 I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that to mor-
 row we may go together to the Court: but good Cousin stay
 not too long, for I know my wife will hourly expect us.
 When (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at
 this hole? these Priests are wise, and subtil, and couch



their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken. ~~But~~ his
 cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward
 before; what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat ashamed
 at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently
 caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the
 Cat fell and perceived, he quickly leapt back again: so that
 the

of Reynard the Fox.

the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so
 that he began to struggle and cry out, and exclaim most pite-
 ously; Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which
 he infinitely rejoiced, and in great scorn said, Cousin Tibert,
 love you mice? I hope they be well fed for your sake; knew
 the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so
 good disposition, they would bring you sauce quickly; me-
 thinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion? if it
 be, I would I sgrim the Wolf were coupled with you, that
 all my friends might be feasted together: but all this while
 the poor Cat was fast, and mew'd so piteously, that Marti-
 net leapt out of his bed, and cryed to his people, Arise, for
 the thief is taken that hath stoln our Hens: With these
 words the Priest unfortunately rose up and awaked all in his
 house, crying, the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and ar-
 ring stark naked he gave to Jullock his wife an offering, can-
 dle to light, and then came first to Tibert, he smote him with
 a great staff, and after him many others: so that the Cat re-
 ceived many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was
 so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which
 he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to
 dash out the Cats brains: but the Cat perceiving his death
 so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the
 Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastned on his
 genitals, that in all the great Turke Seraglio, there was
 not a clearer Eunuch: which when Dame Jullock his wife
 saw, she cryed out and swooze, she had rather have lost the
 whole Offerings of seven years, than that one poor little mor-
 sel: and withal curs'd that ever the Gin was invented, and
 calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Fathers delight,
 and my Jewel, but it is now spell'd, to his shame, and my
 utter loss for ever: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he
 can never more be comfortable. All this while Reynard
 stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so ex-
 tremely, that his body was ready to break; saying to Dame
 Jullock, O woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest
 hath lost but one Stone, you may yet receive due ven-
 geance:

The Moral.

By the Fox
 insnaring of
 the Cat, is
 exprest, how
 when wise
 men will trust
 their enemies
 or give credit
 to reconciled
 Friends, they
 evermore
 miscarry in
 their designs;
 & therefore e-
 very wise man
 should so tem-
 per his affecti-
 ons, that he
 grow not
 fond of any
 thing in his
 enemies pow-
 er, how a-
 greeable soe-
 ver it be, ei-
 ther with his
 nature, or his
 power. For
 the baits of
 an enemy are
 only gilded
 Pills, which
 are fair to
 look on, but
 most bitter to
 taste. By the
 mischief
 which the
 Priest receiv-
 ed, is shew-
 ed, that they
 which harm

The pleasant History

watch; harm
catch; & that
the trap
which men
now & then
set for others,
brings hurt to
themselves.



volence: there is many a Chappel in which but one Bell
rings. Now whilst the For thus scoffed the Priest's wife, the
poor Priest fell down in a swoond: so that every man left
the Cat, to revive the Priest: which whilst they were do-
ing, the For returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope to escape: but the poor Cat
seeing

of Reynard the Fox.

Seeing all his foes buſte about the Holeſt, he preſently began to knaw and bite the rozd, till he had ſheared it quite aſunder in the miſt: which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But beſoze he got thither, it was far day, and the Sun being riſen, he entred the Court, like the pitifulleſt beaſt that ever was beheld. For by the Fores craft, his body was beaten and bruſed, his bones ſhivered and broken; one of his eyes loſt, & his ſkin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and ſaw Tibert ſo pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, & took counſel once moze, how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After ſome conſultation, Grimbard the Brock, Reynard's Siſters ſon, ſaid to the reſt of the Kings Councel. My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice ſo evil as theſe complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough againſt his miſchiefs; therefore it is fit you do him Juſtice as to a man of his rank, which is, he muſt be the third time ſummoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid againſt him. When the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fitteſt to ſummon him, or who would be ſo deſperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay his life with one ſo tyrannous and irreligious? Truly (answered the Brock) if it pleaſe your Maſeſty, I am that deſperate perſon, who dare adventure to carry the meſſage to my moſt ſubtile Kinsman, if your highneſs but command me.

CHAP. VIII.

How Grimbard the Brock was ſent to bid the Fox to the Court.

Then ſaid the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is ſubtle and malicious. The Brock thanked his Maſeſty and ſo taking humble leave went to Mallepardus, where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wiſe, ſporting with their young whelps, then having ſaluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he ſaid: Take heed ſair Uncle, that
E your

The Pleasant History

The Moral.

In the sending of the Brock to fetch the Fox, is shewed, that when the vicious cannot be overtaken and brought to answer, then it is meet to use their own weapons against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done then by imploying their kindred, and such as they most dearly affect to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your absence from the Court, and not more mischief to your cause, then the offence both deserve: believe it, it is high time you appear to the Court, since your delay doth beget but more danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infinite; and this is your third time of Summons; Therefore your wisdom may tell you, that if you delay but one day further,



there

of Reynard the Fox.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy; for with-
in three days your Castle will be demolished, your kindred
made slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example.
Wherefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wis-
dom, and go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but
your discretion shall excuse you; for you have past thorow ma-
ny as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst
the Innocence of your cause hath boyn you spotless from the
Tribunal. Reynard answered, Nephew, you say true, and I
will be advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but
in that I know the Court stands in need of my counsel; the
Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his
Majesty, though mine offences were ten times doubled; for I
know the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his
highness understand truly; though I know I have many ene-
mies, yet it troubles me not, for mine Innocence shall alwa-
ken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of
State and Policy, Reynard cannot be missing: They may well
harp upon things, but the pith and ground must come from
my relation: It is the envy of others hath made me leave
the Court; for though I know their shallowness cannot dis-
grace me, yet may their multitudes oppress me: Nevertheless
(Nephew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for
my self, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Chil-
dren, the King is too mighty; and though he do me injury,
yet will I bear it with patience. This spoke, he turn'd to his
wife, and said, Dame Ermelin, have a care of my children, spe-
cially Revnikin my youngest Son, for he had much of my love,
and I hope will follow my Steps; and Rossel is passing hope-
ful, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I
escape, doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leave-
taking Ermelin wept, and her Children howled; for their
Lord and victualler was gone, and Malepardus left unpro-
vided.

The pleasant History

CHAP. IX.

How Reynard throve him to Grimbard the Brock.

The Moral.

The shrift of the Fox sheweth, That when evil men are in danger, then they ever find most religion & by a shew of a penitence win pity from those that dive not into the depth of their deceit and knavery. whereby though they be never so evil, yet they get a good name, & steal opinion of the multitude By the absolution which the Brock gave the Fox, is shewed, how easily an honest simple man may be brought to believe a knaves penance, and how apt they

Vhen Reynard and Grimbard had gone a good way on their journey, Reynard stayed, and said. Dear nephew, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in great hazard, yet to blot out my sins with repentance, & to cast off the burthen, give me leave to shew my self unto you; I know you are holy; and having received penance for my sin, my soul will be quiet. Grimbard bid him proceed. Then said the Fox, Confitebor tibi Pater. Nay, said the Brock, if you will shew to me, do it in English, that I may understand you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live and especially mine Uncle Bruin the Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tybert the Cat, whom I insnared in a grin: I have trespassed against Chanteclere and his Children, and have devoured many of them, nay, the King hath not been quit of my malice, for I have slandered him and his Queen. I have betrayed Isgrim the Wolf, and called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ran in my veins. I made him a Monk of Esmance, where I became also one of the order, only to do him open mischief. I made him bind his foot to the bell-rope to teach him ring, but the peal had like to have cost him his life, the men of the Parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and seeleth the stripes at this instant. I led him to steal Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he fed so extreemly, that not being able to get out, where he got in, I raised all the Town upon him, and then went where the Priest was set at Meat with a fat Ven before him: which Ven I snatcht away so that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never man saw thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meat from before me. This is a boldness beyond knowledg: and with these words he threw his knife at me, but he mist me, and I ran away whilst

of Reynard the Fox.



are to forgive
trespasses up-
on fained for-
row, which
indeed should
not be done
without a
more strict &
severe exami-
nation. The
Fox's leading
the Brock by
the Monastery
and taking
the Capon,
sheweth, that
where wick-
edness is roo-
ted and made
as it were a
habit, that
there, not-
withstanding
all hypocrisie
will still flash
out, and a
knave will be
a knave in
despight of
all perswas-
ions and good
counsel.

whil' he pursued me, crying, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox, and
after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where
Isgrim was, and there I let my Ven fall, for it was too hea-
vy for me (yet much against my will) and then springing
through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took
up the Ven, he espied Isgrim, and then cried out, Strike,
friends,

The Pleasant History



friends, strike, here is the wolf, by no means let him escape us: When the people came all together, with clubs and staves, and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the body, that the wolf fell down as if he had bin dead, whitch perceived, they took him & dragg'd him by the

of Reynard the Fox.

the heels over stocks and stones, & in the end threw him into a ditch without the village, and there he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place, where I told him were seven Hens and Cocks, set on a perch, all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a false dooz, on which we climbed: Then I told him if he would creep in at the dooz, he should find the Hens. Then Isgrim with much joy went laughing to the dooz, and entering in a little, & groping about, he said, Reynard, you abuse me; for here is nothing: Then replied I, Uncle, they are further, & if you will have them, you must adventure for them: Those which used to sit there, I my self had long since; at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the House, and his fall was so great, & made such a noise, that they which were asleep in the House, awaked, and cried, that something was fallen down at the trap-dooz; wherupon they arose, and lighted a candle, espying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, moze than I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Arsewinde his Wife, of which I must repent me for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you not, you make your Christ imperfect, for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Pardon me Nephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of Women: The truth is, I have lain with her: Thus have I told you my wickedness, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Grimbard was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Nephew, You shall three times strike your body with this rod, and then lay it down upon the ground, and spzing three times over it without bowing of your legs, or stumbling: Then shall you take it up, & kiss it gently, in sign of meekness and obedience to your penance; which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbard said unto him; See that henceforth

The Pleasant History

forth Uncle you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast Vigils, keep Holy days, give alms, and leave your sinful and evil life. your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall obtain mercy. The For promised to perform all this; and so they went together towards the Court: But a little besides the way as they went, stood a Religious house of Puns, where many Geese, Hens, and Capons went without the wall: and as they went talking the For led Grimbard out of his right way to that place, & finding the Pullet walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddenly leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears; but the Capon escaped: which Grimbard seeing, said, Accursed man, what will ye do, will you for a silly Pullet fall again into all your sins? mischief it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me dear Nephew, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, & mine eye shall no more wander. And then they turned over



of Reynard the Fox.

a little Wizing : but the Fox still glanced his eye towards the Pullen and could by no means refrain it ; for the ill that was bred in his bones, still stuck to his flesh, & his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them : which the Wock noting, said, Hee, dissembling Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullen ? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandered not, but I was saying a Pater Noster for the souls of all the Pullen and Werge which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you hindered me. Well, said Grimbart, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made hast towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear : for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and hainous.

CHAP. X.

Howv the Fox came to the Court, and howv he excused himself.

AS soon as it was bzulted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his Kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as proudly as ever he was wont, with his Nephew thzough the Street, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings son, and as clear from trespass, as the most innocent whatsoever: and when he came befoze the chair of State in which the King sat, he said, Heaven glve your Majesty glory and renown above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highness there was never King had a truer servant then my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majesty; but you scorn the slanders of malice, and although in these

The Pleasant History



The Moral. days; flatterers have the most room in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not so. nor shall they reap any thing but shame for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words, and said, Peace, traitorous Reynard, I know your dissimulation, and can expound your flattery, but both shall now fall upon you: think you I can be caught with the musick of your words? no, it hath too often deceiv'd me: the Peace which I commanded and swoze unto, that have you broken. And is the fit time for all men that have been injured, to utter their complaints, because then only redress is to be had. In the Lion is express the lawfulness of Justice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of Conscience with in them. The Foxes bold behaviour shews, That impudent Malefactors, when they are called in question, make audacity their chief guard, and by railing against their adversaries, do seek to extenuate the looseness of their offences; but Truth and Justice will not be hood-winked.

of Reynard the Fox.

as he would have gone forthward, Chanticleer crying out. O how have I lost this noble Peace? he still Chanticleer (said the King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good cures, with what face canst thou say, thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, whose very wounds yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which believe, thy dearest life shall answer. In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruin's crown be bloody, what is that to me? If your Majesty employed him in a message, and he would neglect it to steal Honey at the Carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? If revenge he sought, why did he not take it himself? he is strong and puissant, it was not for to be lookt for at my wickedness. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or advice, will steal into the Pickets Barn to catch Mice, and there lose his eyes, nay his life, wherein is mine offence? or how become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may do your royal pleasure, and however mine innocence plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your vassal, and have no support but your mercy? I know your strength and mine own weakness, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction, yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram kept forth, and his Wife dame Oseway, and besought the King to hear their complaint; with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage: And Tibert the Cat, Hegrim the Wolf, Kayward the Hare, and Panther the Booz, the Cammel, and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauldwin the Ass, Bortel the Bull, and Hamell the Dre, the Meesel, Chanticleer the Cock, and Pattlet with all her Children. All these with one entire noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaint, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

The Pleasant History

CHAP. XI.

How the Fox vvas arrested and judged to death.

UPon this Arrest a Parliament was called, and ebery
voice went that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding
he answered ebery objection seditiously, though great
Art was used both in one and the other; to the wonderful
admiration of all that heard him: But witnesses examined, &
ebery proof made pregnant, the Fox was condemn'd and judgment
was given, that he should be hanged till his body were
dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all
his subtilty was lost, and no flattery, no nor words now pre-
valled. This done, Grimbart his Nephew, and diuers others
near him in blood (which could not indure to see him die) took
their leave of the King & departed from the Court. When the
King noted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence
all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood & alliance,
he said to himself, It behoueth us to take good and mature
counsel; though Reynard haue some faults, yet he hath many
friends and moze virtues. As the King was thus thinking, the
Cat said to the Bear, Sir Bruin, and you Sir Isegrim, Why
are you slow in this Execution? the euen is almost come and
here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself
of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in
the World shall euer again intangle him: If you mean to exe-
cute him, then proceed, for befoze the Gallows can be made,
it will be dark night. At these words Isegrim remembryng
himself, said, There is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and
with that fetch'd a deep sigh) which the Cat noting, said, Are
you afraid Sir Isegrim? or is this execution against your mind?
you may remember it was only his work, that both your
bryethren were hanged: and sure had you Judgment, you
would thank him for the same, and not thus stand trilling
time. But Isegrim, half angry answered, Your anger puts out
the eye of your reason, yet had we a halter that would fit his
neck;

of Reynard the Fox.

neck, we would soon dispatch him. Reynard that had been
 silent a great while, said, I beseech you shorten my pain; Sir



Tibet hath a Lord strong enough, in which himself was
 hang'd at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests gent-
 les, besides he can climb well and swift: & let him be mine
 execu-

The Pleasant History.

The Moral.

By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Cat, in pursuing the Fox to death, and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies; and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours then their revenges; so blind is wrath, and deformed, it makes men that are cloathed there with. The Foxes patience and mild temper, shews, That when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their virtues, especially,

Executioner, for it neither becometh Isegrim nor Bruin thus to do to their Nephew: I am sorry I like to see it. But since you are set to be my hangmen play your parts, and delay not: go before Bruin, and lead my way; follow Isegrim, and beware I escape not: you say well said Bruin, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So saith they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body, when the Fox felt this usage he was dismayed. yet said I why do you put your selves (my best kinsmen) to this pain, to do me hurt? believe it I could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will and can endure your worst malice: as for Bruin and Tibert, I leave my revenge to justice, and with you the reward of Traitors, if you do not to me the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me, I wish it were past already. for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished. therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. Then said Isegrim, let us go for his ruse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on one side, and Bruin on the other, led the poor Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen and all the rest of the Nobility, took their place to see the Fox die. Then Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bestinking himself how he might escape that danger, & how to enthral and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himself, Though the King & many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it, nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said, Sir Bruin, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come we wish for. Tibert ascend quickly & bring the rope to the Gallows, making a running nois, for this day you shall have your will

of Reynard the Fox.

will of your enemy: and good fir Bruin take heed he escape meekness, for
 not, whilst I my self raise up the Ladder. When all things that soonest
 were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heave, for doth insinu-
 Death stand now in all his hezroz befoze me, and I cannot ate with
 escape: my dread Lord the King and you my Sovereign Lady mens na-
 the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see me tures, and
 die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Boon, that I may draws forth
 unlock my heart befoze you, and clear my soul of her burdens, pity, whereas
 so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me? which done, roughness e-
 my death will be easie, and the Assistance of your prayers, ver increa-
 will raise my soul to heaven. seth mischief.

CHAP. XII.

How Reynard made his Confession before the King.

Every creature now took compassion on the Fox, and
 said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant
 it: which was done, And then the Fox thus spake: Help
 me, Heaven! for I see no man here whom I have not offended:
 yet was this evil no natural inclination in me, for in my
 youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this
 know, I have playd with the Lambs all the day long, and took
 delight in their prey bleating; yet at last in my play I hit
 one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet, that since I could
 never forbear it; This liquorish humor drew me into the
 Woods amongst the Goats, where hearing the bleating of
 the little kids, I slew one of them, and after, two more which
 slaughter made me so hardy, that then I fell to murder
 Hens, Geese, and other Poultry. And thus my crimes increased
 by custom, and fury so possesst me, that all was sith which
 came to my not. After this (in the winter season) I met with
 Isegrim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfold-
 ed unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Pedigree
 down so plain, that from that day forth we became fel-
 lows and companions: Which knot of friendship I may
 ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters:

be

The Pleasant History

he stole the great things, & the small; he murdered Nobles, &
the meanest Subjects: and in all our actions his Ware still



was ever the greatest: when he got a Ram, a Goat, or
a Sheep, his force would hardly afford me the horns to stick
on: nay, when he had an Ox, or a Cow, after himself, his
wife,

of Reynard the Fox.

toise and his seven children were serbed, nothing remained
to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak, not in that
I wanted for it is well known I have more Plate, Jewels,
and Cloths, then twenty Carts are able to carry) but onely to
shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of
this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed
with a desire thereof: and he said, Reynard, where is that trea-
sure you speak of? The Fox answered, My Lord, I shall wil-
lingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stoln, and had
it not been stoln in that manner as it was, it had cost your
Highnesse your life (which heavens I beseech keep ever in
their protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous
speech, she started, and said What dangers are these you speak
of, Reynard? I do command you upon your soules health, to
unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing concealed
which concerns the life of my deead Lord. The Fox with a
sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen, O my
deead Sovereign Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I
might die at this present? but gracious Madam, your con-
juration, and the health of mine own soul, so prebailleth with
me, that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speak no-
thing but what I will make good with the hazard of my dam-
nation. 'Tis true, the King should have been piteously
murdered by his own people, and I must confesse, by those of
my nearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not
the health of mine own soul, and the fealty to the King com-
mand the contrary: The King much perplext at this disco-
very, said, Is this true, Reynard, which you protest? the Fox
answered, Alas, my deead Lord, you see the case wherein I
stand, and how small a sand is left in my pooz glasse to run:
Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? what can
the whole world avail me, when my soul perissheth? and at
that he trembled and look'd so pitifully, that the Queen had
great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for
the safety of his own Royal person to take some pity of the
Fox, and to command all his subjects to hold their peace, and
keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

The Pleasant History

The Moral.

all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my sovereign Lord the King, and that his royal life lieth in the balance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capital and foul treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person for any respect whatsoever, whether it be blood, greatness, or authority: know then, my dead sovereign Lord the King, that my Father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ermericks treasure; being a masse infinite and innumerable, of which being possess, he grew so proud & haughtie: that he held in scorn all the beasts of the Wilderness which before had been his kinsmen and companions; at last he caused Tybert the Cat to go into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruine the Bear, and to tender to him his homage and fealty; saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flanders, where he would shew him means how to set the Crown upon his head. Bruine was glad of this offer, (for he was exceeding ambitious, and had long thirsted for sovereignty) and thereupon came into Flanders, where my Father received him nobly. Then presently he sent for his wife Grimbart my Nephew, and for Isegrim the Wolf, and for Tybert the Cat: then these five coming betwixen Gaunt and the village called Elfe, they held a solemn Council for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my Fathers riches, it was there concluded, that your Majesty should be forthwith murdered, which to effect, they took a solemn oath in this manner: The Bear, my Father, Grimbart, and the Cat, laying their hands on Isegrims Crown, swore first to make Bruine their King & to place him in the Chaire of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance they should be gain-said, that then my Father with his treasure should hire those which should utterly chase and root them out of the Forrest. Now after this determination held and finished, it happened that my Nephew Grimbart being on a time high-drunken with wine, he discovered this damnable plot to Dame Slopard

of Reynard the Fox.

Pard his wife, commanded her upon her life to keep secret the same : but she forgetful of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my wife, as they went a Pilgrimage over an Heath, with like conjuration of secrecie : but she (woman-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledg of all that passed ; yet so, that by all means I must keep it secret too : for she had sworn by the three things of Cullen ne-ber to disclose it ; and withall she gave me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which she had spoken, insomuch that the very affright thereof made my hair stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, cold and heavy in my bosome, which made me call to mind the Story of the Frogs, who being free without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and govern over them, and he presently sent them a Stork, which eat and devoured them up : so that by his tyranny they became the most miserable of all creatures ; then they complained again to Jupiter for redress, but it was then too late ; for they that could not be content with their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thraldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grieving : I know that the ambition of the Bear, and his tyranny is so great, that should the Government come into his hands, (as heaven forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed : Besides, I know your Majesty of so royal and Princely birth : so mighty, so gracious, and so merciful, that it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a ravenous Bear to sit in the throne of a Royal Lyon ; for there is in the Bear, and in his generation, more prodigal looseness and inconstancie, then in any Beast whatsoever. But to proceed, from this sorrow I began to meditate how I might undo my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base Traitor and a Slave into the throne Imperial : for I well perceived, as long as he held the Treasure, there was a possibility of deposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where

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opinion with
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ly exercise his
mischief ; a-
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which a wise
man will shut
his ears as the
Lyon did, if
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loves, as the
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what a man
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my

The Pleasant History

his own desire
will make
him credit,
and where
such credit is
given, there
commonly
the wicked
escape from
punishment,
as here it fell
out with the
Fox:

my Father's Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and
attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in



the open fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my father laid
his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it
happened on a time as I was laid down flat on the ground, I

saw

of Reynard the Fox.

late my father come running out of a hole, and as soon as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed it, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that & many other subtilties, I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the village about his private affairs: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtilty, I quickly found it out; then entered I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we ceas'd not day nor night, with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry & convey away this treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded that Isegrim the Wolf should travel over all the Kingdom, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their sovereign, and defend his title, a full years pay beforehand. And in this journey my father accompanied him, carrying Letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which should supply his treason: When this negotiation was finished between Elve and Soame, and a world of valliant soldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his consort, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony: where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation, they shewed Bruine the muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isegrims lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the action, besides the Beasts own kindred, the

The Pleasant History

the Foxes, the Cats, and the Daffens, all which would be in readinesse upon an hours warning. All this I found out (I praise Heaven) by perfect Intelligence: now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his Caba of treasure: but when he found it open, spoild and ransackt, it is not in me to expresse the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that grief converting to madnesse, and madnesse to desperation: suddenly he went to the next tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Bruine defeated, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune as thus: These foul traytors Bruine and Negrim, being of the Kings privatest Counsel, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread upon me poor Reynard, and work my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my natural Father. O my dread Lord! what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to lose himself to save you? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs? Shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possesst of the good I enjoy? No, that's a madnesse I'll never bee guilty of. Then said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered: Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King saying the Queen, said, Madam will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his natural quality to lye, deal, and deceive? The Queen answered, My dear Lord, now you may boldly belibe him, for howsoever in his prosperitie he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed? why he spareth not to accuse his own Father, nay Grimbard his dearest Brother and kinsman; had he dissembled, he might have

of *Reynard the Fox.*

Hebe laid his imputations on other Beasts, and not on those
he tobeth most intirely. Well Adam (said the King) you
shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox I
will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, What if ever
again he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not
onely himself, but his whole generation I will utterly root
out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the
King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at
his heart, and said, My dread Lord, it were a huge shame in
me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence.
When the King taking a straw from the ground, pardoned
the Fox of all his trespasses which either he, or his Father
had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile, it was
no wonder, the sweetness of life required it: yet he fell down
before the King and Queen and humbly thanked them for their
mercle, protesting that for that favour he would make them
the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the
Fox took up a straw, and profered it unto the King, and said
to him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this
pledge as a surrender unto your Majesty of all the Treasure
that the great King Ermerick was master of, with which I
freely incoffe you out of my meer voluntary and free motion.
At these words the King received the straw, and smiling,
gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox
laughed outright to think of the abuse. From that day for-
ward no mans counsel prevailed with the King as the Foxes;
which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My gracious
Lord! you shall understand, that at the West side of Flanders
there standeth a Wood called Husterloe, near which runneth
a River named Crekenpit: this is a Wilderness so vast, and
unpassable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either
man or woman in the same. In it I have hid this Treas-
ure, whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen
to go, for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in
so great a design: and when your Highness comes thither,
you shall find two Birch trees growing by the pit, into
which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure,
which

The Pleasant History

which consisteth of the Gold, rich Jewels, and the wealthie
Crown which King Emerick wore. With which Crown
Byrnie the Bear should have been Crowned, if his treason
had succeeded according to his determination: there shall
you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which
when you are possesse, then remember the love of your servant
Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your
self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find
it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen,
but Crekenpit I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissem-
ble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold coun-
tenance he said, Is your Majesty so doubtfull of my faith?
may then I will approve my words by publique testimony:
and with that he called forth Kayward the Ware from amongst
the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before
the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance
which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such
questions as he should ask him. The Ware answered, I will
speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the
same. When the Fox said, Know you not where Crekenpit
standeth. Yes, said the Ware, I have known it any time this
hundred yeares; it standeth in a wood called Husterloe, upon a
hill and wide wilderness, where I have endured much tor-
ment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where
Father Simony the Fryer made false Colne, with which he
supported himself and his fellows. Yet that was before I
and King the Down became companions. Well, said the
Fox, you have spoken sufficiently: go to your place again:
so away went the Ware. When said the Fox, O Sovereign
Lord the King, what say you now to my relation? am I wor-
thy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and
I beseech thee excuse my Jealousies, it was my ignorance
which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation that
we may go to the pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox
answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would faine
go with you. If it were so that I might go without
your dishonour, which I cannot do; for you shall under-
stand

of Reynard the Fox.

stand, (though it be my disgrace) that when I seim the Wolf in the Devils name, would needs grow religious and turn a Monk, that then the portion of meat which was for six Monks was too little for him alone, Whereupon he complained so pittfully unto me, that I commiserating his case, (being my kinsman) gave him counsel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I stand accursed, and excommunicated under the Popes sentence, and am determined to morrow as soon as the Sun ariseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved; and from Rome I intend to crosse the Seas into the Holy land, & will never return again to my native Country, till I have done so much good, and satisfied for my sins, that I may with honour & reputation attend on your Highnesses person. The King hearing this said, Since you stand accursed in the censures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some other with me, to Crekenpit, and onely command you, Reynard, as you respect my favour, to clear your self of his Holiness curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is the onely reason of my going to Rome; neither will I rest night nor day, till I have gotten a full absolution: the course you take is good (said the King) go on, and prosper in your intent and purpose.

CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the Kings Commandment.

As soon as this conference was ended, the royal King mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a scaffold, made of fair squared Stone, and then commanded a general Silence amongst all his Subjects, and that every one should take his place according to his Birth, or dignity in Office, onely the Fox was placed between the King and the Queen. Then said the King: Hear all you Noble men, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferiour quality; This Reynard, one of the chief and supreme Officers of my,

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be nro uls

The Pleasant History

Whom his offence had brought him to the last reckoning of his life, as being in the hands of the law and Justice.



both this day, in requital of those Injuries, done that Noble and worthy service to the State, that both my self and my Queen, stand bound to render him our best grace and favour.

There.

of Reynard the Fox.

The Moral.

Therefore know, that for divers things best known unto
ourselves, we have freely given pardon to all his offences, &
restored back to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: there-
fore henceforth I command all of you, upon the pain & hazard
of your dearest lives, that you fail not from this day forward
to do all reverence and honour, not onely to Reynard him-
self, but also to his Wife & Childzen, whensoever, or where-
soever you shall meet them, whether by night or by day:
not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble
mine ears with any more complaints of him: for his wicked-
nesse he hath cast behind him, & will no more be guilty of
wrong doing: which to effect the better, to morrow very
early he taketh his journey towards Rome, where from the
Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence for all
his offences, and then the Pilgrimage to the Holy land.
This speech, when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Bruin,
Hegrim and Tibert, and said, Wretched creatures! how are
your fortunes changed? for how can you endure to hear these
things? Why, Reynard is now a Courtier, a Councillor,
nay the prime favourite: his offences are forgiven, and you
are all betrayed, and sold unto bondage. Hegrim answered
It is impossible, Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: do
not deceive your selves (said the Raven) for it is true as that
now I speake it. Then went the Wolf and the Bear to the
King, but the Cat said, and was so sore affrighted with
the news, that to purchase the Foxes friendship again,
he would not onely have forgiven the evils received, but
willingly have run into a second hazard. But now Hegrim
with great insolence and pride striding over the fields, came
before the King and Queen, and with most bitter and cruel
words, inveighed against the Fox in such a passionate and
impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moved
with displeasure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be
presently arrested upon high Treason: which suddenly
was done with all violence and speed, and they were bound
hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move
from the place where they were couched. For when the Fox

By this ho-
nour done to
the Fox, you
may see, that
when policy
and wisdom
get the upper
hand of their
enemies, it ne-
ver resteth till
it maketh
known to the
world the
greatnesse of
their Con-
quest, both to
express their
ambition, as
also to exte-
nuate their
crimes, and
keep their
foes in awe
with the good-
ly shows of
new grace
and favour.
By the com-
plaint of the
Raven, is
shewed the
jealousie and
fear of the
weaker sort,
and how in
their troubles
they fly to
the Heads of
faction, and
stir them
with their
own safeties
to prevent
evils.

The Pleasant History

By the way had thus intressed and intangled them, he so laboured with
 and the Bear commitment, the Queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bears
 is shewed, that skin, as would make him a large scrip for his Journey:
 when men complain in unseasonable times, they ever run themselves in
 to most apparent and grievous mischiefs



which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of
 shoes to defend his feet from the stones in his travel:
 where-

of *Reynard* the Fox.

Whereupon he said to the Queen, *Madam*, I am your Pilgrim, and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your consideration, you shall find that *Sir Isegrim* hath a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you vouchsafe to bestow upon me, I would pray for your Majesties soul in all my trabel about my charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt, *Dame Arlewinde* hath other two shoo's which would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad. The Queen replied, *Reynard*, I cannot perceive but you should want such shoo's, for your journey is full of labour and difficulty both in respect of the steepe mountains, and the grabelly wates, and therefore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nearly) from each of them a pair of shooes to accomplish and finish your journey.

CHAP. 14.

How *Isegrim* and his wife *Arsewind* had their shoo's pluckt off for *Reynard* to wear to *Rome*.

After the Fox had made this petition, *Isegrim* was taken, and his shoo's pulled off in most cruel and violent manner, so that all the veins and sinews lay naked, nor durst the poor mangled Wolf either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then *Dame Arlewinde* his wife was used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her husband was on his fore-feet; which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornful manner, Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my sake? questionlesse you shall be a Harer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your shoo's. Then *Arlewinde* (though speech were troublesome to her) said, Well *Sir Reynard*, you have your will accomplished, yet heaven (I hope) will requite the mis-doer. This she said, but her husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them; and surely had the Cat been there.

The Pleasant History

The Moral.

In the Spoyle
ing the Bear
of his skin,
and the Wolf
of his shoos,
is shewed,
both the ma-
lice of a re-
vengeful eng-
my, that ne-
ver thinks his
Foe weakned
enough, till he
be utterly rui-
ned; as also the
indiscretion
of an over-
angry nature,
that cannot
stay to give
his wrongs ad-
vantage, but
utters his
spleen be'ore
he can either
get relief or
remedy. By
the ceremo-
nies done to
the Fox, and
the curiosity
of the Ram, is
shewed, that
in cases of in-
differency,
(where autho-
rity hath pow-
er to command)
for any man
to stand upon
nice and Puri-
tanical terms
with his supe-
riors, doth not

also, he had not escap'd some extream punishment. The next morning very early Reynard causing his shoos to be well oil'd, put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, as they were to the Wolf, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your poor subject boweth him- self befoze your Majesties, humbly beseeching your High- nesses, to deliver me my male and my staffe, blest, accord- ing to the custom due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and com- manded him to say solemn Masse befoze the For, and to de- liver him his staffe, and his male; but the Ram refused, say- ing, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse; and the King said what of that? have not our Doctors told us, that if a man commit all the finnes in the world, yet if he repent himself, be shriben, do penance, and walk as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearly for- given him? and hath not Reynard done all this? then answer- ed Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle herin; yet if your Ma- jesty will bear me harmless against the Bishop of Prendelor, (my ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon of Loof-wind, and Rapiamus his Dificial, I will effect your commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be beholding unto you: but when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass, and used many ceremonies over the For, who gave little re- spect unto them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the ho- nour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orizons, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male: which was made of the Bears skin, & put into his right foot a Palmers staffe: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sad- ly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart; and fained to weep (though sorrow and he were never farther as- sunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were; yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone)

of Reynard the Fox.

gnos) the King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part
 thus suddenly : then said the Fox There is no remedy my
 Lord, nor ought I to be slow in so doubtful an action. When the
 King took leave, and commanded all that were about him
 (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of
 his journey. And he that had seen how gallant and personable
 Reynard was, and how well his staff and his mule became
 him : as also how fit his shoes were for his feet, it could not
 have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: yet
 the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely : however
 inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast among them,
 especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the
 King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to
 be aiding to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if
 they had been his companions. But the Fox being now on
 ward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty
 trouble your self no further, but have respect to your ease, and
 the danger that might happen to your royal person : for you
 have arrested two capital Traitors, who if in your absence
 they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite, which
 might insure thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder
 feet, and intreated the beasts that were in his company, and
 would be partakers of his pardon, that they would pray for
 him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding
 sad and heavy countenance : Then turning to Kiyward the
 Ware, & Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling countenance :
 My best friends, shall we part thus soon ? I know your loves
 will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and
 your conversations are agreeable to my nature : for you are
 mild, loving, and courteous, religious, and full of wise coun-
 sel, even such as my self was when I was first a Recluse :
 if you have a few green leaves, or a little grass, you are as well
 content, as with all the bread and fish in the world, and you
 are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like
 flattering words, he inticed these two, that they were content
 to go along with him.

The Pleasant History

CHAP. 15.

How *Kayward* the Hare was Hun by *Reynard* the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

THUS marched these three together; and when *Reynard* was come to the gates of his own house, he said to *Bellin*, cousin, I will intreat you to stay here without a little, whilst I and *Kayward* go in: for I would have him a witness of some private passages betwixt me and my wife. *Bellin* was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into *Mallepardus*, where they found dame *Ermelin* lying on the ground, with her younglings about her, who had sorrowed exceedingly for the losse and danger of her husband: but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. But beholding his male, his taffe, and his shoo's shee grew into great admiration, and said, Dear husband, how have you fared: to whom he delivered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger, as release, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left *Bruine* and *Isegrim* to pledge for him till his return: as for *Kayward*, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleased, affirming, that *Kayward* was the first that had complained of him, for which questionlesse he vowed to be sharply revenged. When *Kayward* heard these words, he was much appaled, and would faine have fled away, but he could not, for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who presently seized the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto *Bellin* for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, & drinking the blood to the Kings health. But *Ermelin* growing suspicious, said I fear, *Reynard*, you mock me; as you love me, tell me how you sped at the Court. Then he told her how extreemly he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure, that was not, in so much, that he knew when it should come to be revealed,
the

of Reynard the Fox.

The King, would seek all the means he could to destroy him; The Moral.
 And therefore Wille, said he, there is no remedy but we must
 Seal from hence, into some other Forest where we may



By the killing of the Hare, is shewed, that whereas men out of the lightness and easiness of their belief do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries, or new reconciled Friends, that evermore some inevitable mischief doth still follow such folly and improvidence. Also how easily a malicious man can find cause of quarrel with such as are too weak for them or as eye-sores, stand between them and the end of their purposes, or are able to reveal and hinder their projects

By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lion and taking upon him to indite the Letters,

live in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, where we shall have all the delicate meats that can be wished for, clear Springs,

The Pleasant History

which he saw not is discovered, that ever such vain glorious pick-purses of others qualities, do ever carry their own shames and disreputations, and when they look for most honour or renown, they reap nothing but misery, scorn and disgrace.

Erminas, fresh ribers, cool wines, and wholesome air: here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my thumb out of the King's mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no fancy to go from hence, to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: here we possess all that we desire, and you are a Lord over all that lyes about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard to change a certain good, for a hoped contentment: besides, we are here safe enough, and should the King besiege us never so straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us relief, or liberty. What reason have we then to lie beyond seas? but you have sworn it, that is my veration. Nay Dame (said the Fair) grieves not at that: the more forsworn, the less forsoorn: Besides I have heard some say, that a forsw't Oath is no Oath, nor do I make account that this pilgrimage will avail me a rush. And therefore I am resolved, and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsel: If the King do hunt after me, I will guard my self as well as I am able, and against his Power apply my Policy: so that being forced to open my sack, let him not blame me if he catch hurt by his own fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew exceeding angry both against the Fair and the Mare, that they made him wait so long: and therefore called out aloud, for Reynard to come away: Which when Reynard heard, he went forth, and said softly to the Ram Good Bellin be not offended, Kayward is in earnest conference with his dearest Aunt, and intreated me to say unto you, that if you would be pleased to walk before, he would speedily overtake you, for he is light of foot, and speedier then you: nor will his Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her children are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me thought I heard Kayward cry for help. Now, cry for help? can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far be such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason: as soon as we were come into my house, and that Ermelin my

will it

of Reynard the Fox.

the underkeep of my pilgrimage, presently the fell demon
was shewnd, which when Kayward saw, he cryed aloud, O
Bellin come and help my Aunt. she dies, she dies: then said the
Kam, In sadness I mistook the cry, and thought the Hare had
been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the
Fox, but before he should have any injury in my house, I
would leade to respect either Wisse or Children. But lesting
this offence pass, you remember Bellin that yesterday the
King and his Council commanded me that before I depart,
toe from the land, I should send unto him two Letters, which
I have made ready, and will intreat you my dearest Cousin to
bear them to his Majesty. The Kam answered, I would wil-
lingly do you the service, if there be nothing but honourable
matter contained in your Letters: but I am prohibited of any
thing to carry them in. The Fox said, that is prohibited for
you already, for you shall have my wife, which you may con-
diently hang about your neck: I know they will be thank-
fully receivd of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great
importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox
returned into the house, and took the male, and put therein
the head of Kayward, and brought it to the Kam, and gave him
a great charge not to look therein, till it was presented to the
King, as he did expect the Kings favour: and that he might
farther indear himself with his Majesty, he bade the Kam
take upon him the inditing of the Letters, which will be so
pleasing to the King, that questionlesse he will pour upon you
many favours.

The Kam was exceeding glad of his advice, and thanked
the Fox, saying, that the favours he did him should not be
unrequited: and I know it will be much to mine honour,
when the King shall think I am able to indite with so great
perfection: for I know there be many in these dayes as igno-
rant as my self, that are risen to high promotion onely by
taking upon them the worth of other mens Labours. Yet I
pray you Reynard, farther advise me, is it meet that I take
Kayward the Hare along with me? O by no means (said the

The Pleasant History

For) let him come after you, for I know his Hunt will not yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not be revealed. This said, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, sitting amongst the Nobility.



of Reynard the Fox.

The King wondered when he saw the Ham come in with the male which was made of the Bears skin, and said, Whence comest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered, My dear Lord, I attended the noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highness both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages, that he might read them publickly: so he and Tybert the Cat took the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the head of Kayward the Hare; at which being amazed they said, Who and alas what Letters call you these? belike it, my dear Lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murdered Kayward. Which the King seeing (he said) Alas how unfortunate was I to believe the traitorous Fox? And with that being oppressed with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadful noise, that all the beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Firapel the Libard, who was the Kings nearest kinsman, and said, Why is your Majesty thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral. I do beseech you assuage your anguish: Are not you King and master of this Country? are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is mischief beyond endurance: I am betrayed by a base villain, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel; I mean the stout Bruin, and valiant Ifegrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour; yet in my self I found an unwillingness thereto, only my Queens pitte working upon the ear.

Anelle:

The Pleasant History



loss of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will
 evermore grieve me. Why (said the Wybar) what of all this?
 you are above all your injuries, and with one smile can salve
 the greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have po-
 wer to recompence, & what reputation is it, that reward will
 not satisfy? as for the Bear that lost his skin, the Wolf
 and his wife dame Arlewinde, that lost their bones, you may
 in recompence (since Bellin hath confessed himself a party in
 this foul murder) bestow him and his substance upon the par-
 ties grieved: as for Reynard, we will go and besiege his Castle,
 and having arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of
 Arms without further trial.

CHAP. 16.

How Bellin the Ram, and his Lineage, were given to the Bear
 and the Wolf.

To this motion of the Wybar the King consented: so that
 Pirapet, forthwith went to the palfrey, where the Bear
 and

of Reynard the Fox.

and the Wolf were, and said, My Lords, I bring a free and
general pardon from the King, with his love, and a recog-
nition of your injuries: he is to recompence in some large



manner out of his princely countie, he is pleased to be shewn
upon you both Bellin the Ram, and his whole generation, with
what

The Pleasant History

whosoever they possess, and is now confiscate to his Majesty, to hold from henceforth, to you and yours till doomsday, with full Commission to slay, kill and labour them wheresoever you find them, be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. And also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt, kill, or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you find him, or any of his lineage or generation: and of this great privilege you shall receive Letters Patents at your pleasure, with only a reservation of your fealty and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will rebound much to your honours. Thus was the peace made between the King and these Nobles, by the Lybard, and Bellin the Kame was forthwith taken by them; and all these privileges both the Wolf hold to this hour, nor could ever any reconciliation be made between them and the Kame kindred. When this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve dayes after, which was done with all solemnity.

To this feast came all manner of wild Beasts, for it was universally known through the whole Kingdom; nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined, as music, dancing, masking, & all princely recreations. As for several meats, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a Roze-house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered fowl, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast had thus continued in all pomp the space of eight days, about high-noon came Lapril the Coney before the King and Queen as they sat at dinner, and with a heave and lamentable voice, said, My gracious and great Lord have pity upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murder, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me, as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, to here standing without his gates, attired like a pilgrim, I supposing to passe peaceably by him toward my rest, he took my way, saying his words so devoutly, that I

saluted

of Reynard the Fox.

silenced him: but he returning no answer, scratcht with his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, between the

The Moral

By the giving of *Bellin* unto his enemies is shewed, that when simple men give themselves to pride and vain glory they are overtaken by their enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction. By the complaint of the Conie, is shewed, that when the weak will believe the fair shews of the strong and cruel, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they do by some hiddden providence, yet it is not without ever some main, either to their bodies or, reputation. The complaint of the Rook shews, that



dead and monst'rous, that I imagined my head had been strick, from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his claws; though most grievously hurt and

when the evil man sleepeth, or seemeth to have least

wounded.

The Pleasant History

power or in-
tent of wick-
edness, that
then his
thoughts are
most busied
and laborious
to destroy the
innocent, and
the mischief is
more violent,
then when he
lyeth most
apparent, and
publisheth
himself an op-
pen enemies
wherefore the
simple and in-
nocent ought
at such times
to be most
fearful, and
to keep far-
thest out of
his danger.

Wounded. At this he grieved extremely, because I escaped,
only of one of my ears he utterly deprived me; which I
beseech your Majesty in your Royal nature to pity, and that
this bloody murderer may not live thus to amuse your good
Subjects. Now whilst the Count was thus speaking to the
King, there came flying into the Court, Corbiant the Cook,
who coming before the King, said, Great King, I beseech
you vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall ut-
ter: so it is, that I went this morning with Sharpbeak my
wife, to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there we found
R-ynard the ~~far~~ laid on the ground like a dead carcase, his
eyes staring, his tongue falling out of his mouth, like a dead
Wound, so that we wondering at his strange plight, began to
feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: then
went my wife (poor careful soul) and laid her head to his
mouth, to see if he drew any breath: which she had no sooner
done; but the foul murderer smothering his time, snatch'd her
head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I screamed
out, and cried: Who is me, what misadventures are these? But
presently the murderer starts up, and reached at me with
such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish,
I was fain to fly up into a tree, where I saw him devour up
my wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is
death to me in the repeating.

When the murderer departed, and I went
to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife, which
here I humbly present before your Majesty, beseeching you to
do me justice, and in such manner to revenge mine injury,
that the world may speak same of your Great Excellence, for
thus to suffer your Wives, Widdows, and late Convents to be
violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandal to
your Crown and Dignity, that your very neighbours and
Colleagues will note and point at your remissness: besides
the sufferance of the evil will make you guilty of the trespass
for which you suffer from such sufferance: But to your great con-
siderations I leave it, since I know your Majesty's own good-
ness will make you careful of your honour and loyalty.

CHAP.

of Reynard the Fox.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for
revenge; and how Reynard was forewarned
by Grimbold the Brock.

The royal King was much moved with anger, when
he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the
Kook, so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams
of Majesty, his countenance was dreadful and cruel to look
on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end,
he said, By my Crown, and the truth I evermore reverence
and owe unto the Queen my wife, I will to revenge these
outrages committed against my Crown and Dignity, that
goodnesse shall advise me, and the wicked shall die with the re-
membrence: his falshood and flatterie shall no more get belief
in me.

In this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy Land? are
these the fruits of his Tale, his staff, and other ornaments
becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward
of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the perswasion
of my Queen; nor am I the first that hath been deceived by
that soft gender. Since many great spirits have fallen through
their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were
about him, both Noble, worthy, and every discreet spirit, to as-
sist him with their counsel, and to lay him down such sure
ground for his revenge, that his honour and royaltie might be
anew revived, and every offender made to know and feel the
heavie price for their most unjust actions.

Isegrim the Wolf, and Bruine the Bear, hearing the Kings
words, were wonderfully well pleased, and doubted not but
now to gain their full revenge against Reynard; but still
they kept silence, and spake not a word, insomuch that the
King being much moved with these dumbnesses, and feeling
that none but a freely willing heart could be so obedient to
his sake: But the Queen after some deliberation,
said to the King: Mountheart, Poul, Draw up the
names of all the knights and squires that are in the
kingdom, and let them be divided into two companies, the one
to follow the King, and the other to follow the Queen.



choles qu'on vous, & ne jurez point legrement. Sir, it is not the part of any excellent wisdom to believe or protest in any thing, till the matter be made most apparent and pregnant to his knowledge: neither should both his ears be engaged to any complaint, but one ever reserved to entertain the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser exceedeth

of Reynard the Fox.

exceedeth the accused in injuries, And therefore Audire alteram *The Moral.*
 Partem, to hear the other Partie, is the act of perfect Justice :
 For my own part, howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong
 ground for my persuasion, and whether Reynard be good or the Lion at
 bad, yet it stands with your excellencie not to proceed against the Foxestref
 him, but by the true form of your Lawes: for he hath no passes, shews
 power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your sobriety the disposition
 can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Fi- of a good
 rapel the Libard to second her intreatie. said, My Lord, the Prince which
 Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your is ever moved
 Majestie can stray from her judgment: Therefore let him and offended,
 take the due trial of your Lawes, and being found guiltie of the when his good
 trespasses whereof he is accused let him be summoned: and if subjects are in-
 he appear not before your feast be ended to clear himself, or jured and the
 submit to your mercie; then may your Highnesse proceed a perswasion of
 gainst him, as it shall seem best to your pleasure. the Queen
 and the Li-
 bard, shews,
 the true tem-
 perance which
 every Prince
 should use
 when he ad-
 ministrereth
 Justice.

To this speech Ileggrim the Wolf replied, Sir Firapel, for
 my own part, I think not any of this assemble will dissent
 from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my
 Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain; that howsoever
 Reynard shall clear himself of these, and a thousand such like
 trespasses which shall be brought against him: Yet I have
 that lodgeth in my bosome, which shall approve he hath for-
 felted his life: but at this time his absence shall make me
 silent, onely touching the treasure of which he hath informed
 his Majestie to lie at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never
 came a falsse information from the mouth of any creature: for
 it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear,
 and get himself libertie to rob and spoil all that passe by his
 house, as now he doth: but notwithstanding I held it meet
 that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majestie, or
 you, Sir Firapel: yet this believe, that if he had meant to have
 appeared, he had been here long since; for he had summons
 given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered I will have no other course of
 summoning him, but command all that owe me allegiance, or
 respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves
 ready

The Pleasant History

bidden promi-
 ses, and doubt-
 full injuries,
 doth the ut-
 most he can
 to poison the
 reputation of
 him he hateth
 The Brooks
 going to the
 Fox, sheweth
 the office of a
 true friend,
 which both
 giveth warn-
 ing and ad-
 vice to them
 they love,
 when they
 see them run
 into evill
 courses. The
 Foxes care-
 lesse
 shews the true
 nature of a
 desperate
 man; that
 when he hath
 plunged him-
 self into the
 depth of evil,
 hath nothing
 but an auda-
 cious coun-
 tenance and
 an impudent
 shew, to make
 him seem in-
 nocent, yete
 vermore his
 heart is nipt
 with the sting-
 ing of his con-
 science, as oft

ready for the war: and at the end of his dates appeer before
 me with their Bowes, Quenes, Banerres, Whies and
 Halberes; some on horse-back, some on foot, for I will be-
 siege Mallepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his ge-
 neration from the earth for ever: this is my dislike, let him
 turn his back, that I may know him for mine enemy. And
 they all cried with one voice, we are ready to attend your
 pleasure. When Grimbard the Black heard this determina-
 tion, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was despe-
 rate) and stealing from the rest of the company, he ran
 with all speed possible to Mallepardus, whether spurring busi-
 not laced, pale of face: and as he went, he said to himself:
 Alas my dear Uncle Reynard! into what hazards art thou
 drawn, having but one step betwixt thee and thy death; or
 at the best thine everlasting banishment: what may I grieve
 for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, my
 wife and politics, and a friend to the friends: when they
 stand in need of thy counsel, so with thy sweet language
 thou canst inchant all creatures; but all is now banished.
 With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard
 unto Mallepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at
 the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young pigeons
 as they came creeping out of their nest, to try how they could
 learn to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he
 said, and said, Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the only
 he I esteem above all my kindred: Surely you have run
 exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfully: What newes
 man, how runs the squares at the Court? My said Grimbard,
 exceeding ill with you, for you have forfeited both your life,
 honour, and estate. The King is up in arms against you
 with horse-men and foot-men, and souldiers innumerable: be-
 sides Ilegim and Bruine are now in more labour with his
 Majesty, then I am with you; therefore it is high time you
 have great care of your self, for their envie hath toucht you
 to the quick; they have informed against you, that you are a
 thief and a murdherer: and to second their informations, Le-
 prel the Coney, and Corbant the Roock have made malicious

com,

of Reynard the Fox.

complaints against you, so that from shameful death, I see as he is alone,
no escape or freedom, which is the
torment of e-
very offender



Thus (said the Fox) my dear Nephews, if this be the
work, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
would

The Pleasant History

would swear my death, yet will I be exalted above them all, well may they pryke and fangle, and fire themselves with their counsels, but without the help of my wit and policy, neither can the Court or Common-wealth have any long continuance. Come then, my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle, and feast; I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood; yet come, I say, my wife Ermelin will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of a soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sudden sickness, for women are apt to entertain grief. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gail some deep enough, onely this I desire (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend & kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I thank you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingrateful. Sir (said the Bock) be hold of this, that you shall come and make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Libard have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a hate for their worst malice. And this said, they went into Malepardus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Bock with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children with all courtesie. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: then said the Fox, Nephew, how like you my children Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our family, they are forwardly, I assure you, for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a pullet: they are also good Duckers, and can both decelbe the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already
adventure

of Reynard the Fox.

adventure them far, onely I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Grins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right hair, Pephew, and like me, both in countenance and quality; they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is great pride unto me.

CHAP. 18.

How the Fox repenting his sins, doth make his confession, and is absolved by the Brock.

UPONCE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward Children: and resoyce because they are of my blood. I thank you Pephew, (said the Fox) but I know your journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented; so they laid them down upon straw litter, and all slept soundly; but the Fox, whose heart was heavy with sorrow, lay musing how he might best excuse himself before the King. But as soon as the morning began to rise from the top of the Mountains, he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; not before he went, he took leave of his wife and children, and said, Think not mine absence long (dear wife and children) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my way be more then ordinary, yet take no fright thereat, and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best, and be careful of your selves, and keep my Castle close, and well guarded: as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what moves you to take this sudden journey: the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped, and you vowed never to see it again. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrences of the world are divers and uncertain, and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity that I go, and I hope my way shall not be above five daies

The Pleasant History

of the uttermost, and in embracing his wife and children, he
took leave and departed: and as they journeyed near the death,
Raynard said to the Block, Stephen, since I have left this
den, I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let
me make before you my confession, that I may pass with less
trouble through my worst dangers.



of Reynard the Fox.

When he proceeded, and said : It is true, my liege, that I made the Bear receive a great wound for the Wale which I did cut of his skin ; and I caused the Wolf and his wife to



be tript of their shoes : I appeased the King onely with false
 hood, I tained a conspiracie against his Majesties life by the
 Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such determi-
 nation

The Pleasant History

be Moral.

The Foxes
showing him
self to the
brock, shews
the Art of all
dissemblers,
which ever
make devoti-
on their
cloak. By the
buying of the
foal of the
mare, is shew-
d that when
rond men
make instru-
ments of wiser
then them-
selves, and
such as affect
not their qua-
ties, the ser-
vice they do
them is ever
to bring them
to mischief,
c. Also when
ambition or
overousness
blinds men,
and makes
them trust
only in their
own skil and
knowledg,
that then they
are ever sud-
denly over-
taken with
the mischief
another,
and made a
cock and

nation : also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Huster-
low, but it was as fabulous as the rest : I slew Kayward, and
betrayed Bellin : I wounded the Conie, and killed Dime
Sharpbrak, the Rooks wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last Christ-
one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal it, and
thus it was.

As I went talking with the Wolf between Houthloft,
and Elverding we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing, with a
black Fole by her side ; which was exceeding fat and wan-
ton : the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in
so much that he intreated me to go to the Mare, and know if
she would sell her fole ? I went and demanded the question.
The Mare said, She would willingly sell it for Money : I then
asked the price ? and she said, the price was written in her
hinder foot, which if I pleased I might come and read it at
my pleasure, but I that well understood her politick anger,
said, It is truth that I cannot read, neither do I desire to
buy your Fole ; onely I am a messenger from the Wolf,
who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let
him come himself ; and I will give him satisfaction : Then
went I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said ; assu-
ring him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the
Fole : provided he could read, for the price was written in
the Mares hinder foot. Read (said the Wolf) what should
aile me ; I can, Cousin, read both Latin, French, English,
and Dutch ; I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many
Doctors ; I have heard many stately Plays, and sitten in the
place of judgment : I have taken degrees in both the Laws,
nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher : So desir-
ing me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and
craved that he might see and read the price of the Fole : to
which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder foot
which was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-
heads, as the Wolf look'd thereon, He smote him so fast upon
the fore-head, that he threw him ober and ober, and he lay in
a dead sound whilst a man might have ridden a mile, and
better, which done, away trotted the mare with her Colt,

and

of *Reynard the Fox*.

and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, in so much that
 he howled like a Dog : then went I to him, and said, Sir
 Hegrim, dear Uncle, how do you, have you eaten too much of
 the Wolf? indeed you are unkind, that will give me no
 part with you. I went on your message honestly; methinks
 you have out-kept your dinner : good Uncle tell me what was
 written under the Hares foot, was it in Prose or Rime? in-
 deed I would fain know it : I think it was a Welsh Song, for
 I heard you sing? nay, you shew your scholarship in all the
 Arts.

Alas, Reynard, (alas said the Wolf) I pray you forbear to dishonour me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me. The damned Mare on her long leggs hath an iron foot, and I took the nails to have been Letters, on which I looked: she hit me so full on the head, I think my Soul is cloven. Dear Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? believe it, you make me wonder; why I took you for one of the greatest Clerks in this kingdom: Well, I perceive the old proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clerks are not the wisest men. Good men sometimes may outstrip them in Judgment; and the reason is, you great Scholars, study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much overlabour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a hairs breadth to destruction. And now fair Nephew, I have unladed my Conscience, and delivered as many of my sins as I can call to remembrance; wherefore I beseech you let me receive absolution and penance: and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. When Grimbard said, your trespasses are great and banious; nevertheless, who is dead, must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty repentance: onely the contempt you made in sending him Raywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods, will lie heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) be that will live in the world to see this, or hear that, and understand the third, must ever converse with affliction.

The Pleasant History

No man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingers. I often feel touches of repentance, but reason and our will are often in continual combats, so that I oft stand still, as at my wits end, and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them. But presently the world and her vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Prelates so inchant me, that I am forthwith taken again, the world fills me with covetousness, and the flesh with wantonness; so that losing my good resolutions, I am wholly for Hell and wickedness. I hear their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: from them I learn my lying, and from Lords Courts my flattery: for certainly, Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerks, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: and he that cannot dissemble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still grace in it with falsehood: for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly, and without knowledge: yet having a handsome garment, it ever goes for current. Dear Nephew, it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, soothe, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that can, not whimble falsehood in truths herchief, hath neither Art nor cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver errors without hammering, he may do wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Laws spiritual and temporal, and write himself conqueror in every department. There be many that imagine they can do it neatly, but their cunning oft failes them: so that when they think to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method marre all their discourses; but he that can give to his lye a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rattling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak truth, is

of Reynard the Fox.

no cunning, it never makes the Devil laugh: to lye well and with a grace: to lye up wrong above right; to make mountains and build Castles in the Air: to make men juggle and look through their fingers, and all for hope of gain onely: This, Repheo, is an Art beyond expression; yet evermore at the end cometh misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may lye or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. The play Placebo, may now and then be boyn with; for who so speaks always truth, shall find many rubs in his way: men may err for need, and mean it by counsell. There are trespasses but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime falleth. When (said the Wock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in any purpose, and I am grown enamoured of you, your reasons so far surpass my understanding, that it is no need of your assist: for your self may both play the Priest and confessor: you know the world on such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on their journey towards the Court: yet the Foxes heart (for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy; yet his countenance bewza'd it not: but he pass without amazement through all the press of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Wock march'd close by his side, saying, Uncle be not afraid, but be of good cheer, it is courage of whom Fortune is ever enamoured. When (said the Fox) Repheo, you say true, and your counsel avails me: and so on he went casting many disdainful countenances on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, here I am: what is that the proudest of you have object against me: he beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not: as the Otter, the Bever, and others others, which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which loved him. As soon as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

The Pleasant History

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King, and
 of the Kings answer.

That nothing power from whom nothing can be hid, save
 my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and give
 them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong for



here

Of Reynard the Fox.

There are many false shewes in the world, and the countenance
betrayeth not the heart: which I wish were openly revealed,
and that every creatures trespass should be written in his fore-
head, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance, or that
you (my Sovereign Lord) knew me as nearly as my self,
and how I dispose my self early and late, labouring in your
service; For which cause only malice makes all her com-
plaints against me, striving to thrust me out of your grace &
labour. Inasmuch, that out of my anguish I must needs cry
shame unto them which have so deadly helped me. Nevertheless,
I know that you my Lord, and Sovereign Lady, are so
excellent in your Judgments, that you will not be carried a-
way with falsehoods: and therefore I must humbly beseech
your Majesties, to take into your wisdoms all things accord-
ing to the right of your Laws: for it is Justice I look for, and
desire that he which is found guilty, may feel the weight of
his punishment. For believe it, dear Lord, it shall be known
before I depart from your Court, who I am, that I cannot
satter, but will shew my face with an unblemished fore-
head.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed, and won-
dered when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a
stately countenance, said, Reynard, I know you are expert in
fallacies but words are now too weak to relieve you; I believe
this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace: for me, I
will not chide you much, because I intend you shall live but a
short time: the love you do bear to me, you have shewed to the
Coney and the Hock, and your requital shall be a short life on
earth. The ancient saying is, A Pot may pass long to the wa-
ter, but in the end comes broken home. And your evils have
so long succeeded, that they will now pay you the hazard. At
these words Reynard was stricken into a great fear, and
wished himself far away, yet he be-thought himself that now
he must bear thozow, what fortune soever came: Where-
upon he said (My Sovereign Lord the King) it is but Justice
that you hear me answer my accusations; for were my
faults more hatrons than envy can make them, yet equity

The pleasant History

gives the accused leave ever to answer. I have with my counsels done you service in former times, and may no less still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then my enemies with their slanders shall prevail against me, blame me not to complain. Time hath been it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course, for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my kindred and friends, which now make no value of me, whom I can approve go about to deprive you of the best servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine, if I had been guilty in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance even in the throng of mine enemies? If it had been too much indiscretion, nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subjected. But heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare affront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbold first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was half distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of the Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrow on the heath till I met with my Uncle Martin, the Ape, who far exceeded any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Cambrick any time this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said, Dear Cousin, why are you thus heavy in spirit? and why is your countenance desected? grief is easie to carry, when the burden is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend, is to behold & relieve that, which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. When I answered him, you say true, dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrow is without cause laid upon me; and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends. As namely, the Coney, who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins, saying, he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary, and therefore requested me some meat: I willingly consented, took him in, and gave

of Reynard the Fox.

gave him a couple of Pancakes, and sweet Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Besides, it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitsontide

The Moral
The boldness of the Foxes appearance & speech, shews the impudence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his own boldness to bolster out his cause, still cries for Justice; & caring not so much to excuse himself, as to accuse others, and by digressions & extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to testify any thing against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King, is shewed, the ignorance & sottish blindness of the old times; which would thrust all Kings under the Popes Curse and maketh them subject to his Command though they were ne-



was neer. At which time we must have cleansed and prepared hearts, Et vos estote Parati. Now when he had almost

they were ne-

The pleasant History



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 thenish, & Di-
 abodical. By
 his, excusing
 him of the
 crimes against
 the Coney &
 the Rook, is
 shewed that
 whosoever is
 resolved to do
 an ill act, will
 never make
 conscience to
 tell a loudlie;
 nor is he ever
 unprovided
 thereof, be-
 cause they are
 the garment
 which he e-
 ver clothes
 his knavery
 with. By the

well refresh himself, my youngest son Rossel came in, and
 offered to take away what he had left (for you know the
 nature of children is ever eating and craving.) But
 presently the Coney smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth
 bled, and the poor fool fell down almost in a swoond, which
 when as Reynardine (my eldest son) beheld, he forth-
 with leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and
 questionless had slain him, had I not come to the rescue.
 Which done, I went and gave my son correction for his
 fault. But presently Laprel the Coney posts to my Lord
 conscience to the King, and informs that I (my self) sought means to
 murder him. Thus I am accused without cause, and brought
 in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But
 not long after, came Combrant the Rook flying to my house
 with a sad noise, and I demanding what he ailed? He an-
 swered: Alas, my wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said
 A dead Hare lying on the heath full of Moths and Vermin,
 of which she had eaten so much, that the worms had gnawed
 her

of Reynard the Fox.

her throat in sunder; and without speaking to me any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I flew his wife, which how could I by any possi-
 ble means do, considering she flew in the air, and I walkt
 about on the ground? Thus (dear Uncle) you may see how I
 am slandered, but it may be it is for my old sins, and therefore
 I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Ne-
 phew, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods.
 Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath
 put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsel to the
 Wolf to forsake his holy orders, when he complained to me
 of his unability to endure that strict life, and much fasting
 of which As I now much repent me since he repayed my love
 with nothing but hatred, and malice, and with all the slanders
 he can invent, stirring his Majesty daily against me. These
 things (dear Uncle) bring me to my wits end, for of necessi-
 ty I must go to Rome for absolution, and in mine absence,
 what injury may happen to my wife and children through the
 malice of these bloody wretches, any one may guess, whereas
 on the other part, were I but free of the Popes curse, then I
 could go to the Court, and plead mine own cause, and turn
 their malice into their own bosomes.

Then said the Ape Cousin cast off your sorrow, for I know
 the way of Rome well, and am experienced in these businesses
 for I am called the Bishops Clerk, therefore I will go thi-
 ther, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, and in spite of
 his will, bring you from the Pope a well seal'd absolution.

But, man, I have many great friends there, as my Uncle
 Simon, and others, Pen-out, Wait-Scath, and the like, all
 which will stand unto me, besides, I will not go unfurnished
 of money, for I know Paraters are best heard with gifts, and
 the Law hath no feet to walk on but money: a true friend
 is tryed in necessity, and you shall find me without disem-
 bling; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as
 soon as you can, for I will presently to Rome, and in the
 mean time, here I quit you of all your sins and offences,
 and only put them upon my self: when you come to the

Court,

Apes friends,
 is Rome, as Si-
 mon or Sima-
 vi Pen out, or
 take ill, and
 Wait-Scath, or
 do mischief is
 shewed the
 wickedness of
 these days in
 Rome, & how
 by much
 means a man
 might pur-
 chase any
 thing he went
 about. By his
 insinuating
 with the Apes
 wife, who
 was then a
 great favorite
 about the
 Queen, shew-
 ed the art of a
 subtil head,
 that to gain
 himself a
 strong party,
 will not spare
 any false in-
 vention. For
 against those
 great ones
 dare not the
 in erior open
 their lips, By
 the flight of
 the Coney and
 the Rook, is
 shewed

The pleasant History

how soon the weak are terrified and daunted with the threatenings of the strong and mighty, that 'tis better to sit down with wrong, than to contend with one that holdeth too strong a party: And also, how by such advantage the offender takes heart, & thereon grounds the strength of his greater innocenc. By the Lyons last accusations & the Foxes directions, is shewed, that when truth & authority stand up against the wicked, that then studying with his own conscience, he is able to abide no longer, but with silence and down-cast look, he shews plainly the grief which lies within him.

Court you shall find there. I will take away my wife, yet two sisters and my three children, with others others of our family, I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine occasions: my wife is exceeding wise, and she shall find that her distressed friends shall not shrink when I can help them. I know she is faithful, and, as becometh her, will never leave her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be more then you can bare, send presently to me to Rome, and not an enemy that you have, be it King or Queen, or Subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Interdiction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be performed till you have Right and Justice restored you.

This assure your self, I can easily perform, for his Holiness is very old, and little regarded; only north Cardinal Pare-Gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being young and rich in many friends: besides, he hath a Concubine of whom he is so far enamoured, that he denies nothing she demandeth. His Lady is my Niece, and will do whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly to the King and charge him to do you Justice, which I know he will, since he understands the Law is made for the use of all men.

This (my Sobersalga Lord the King) when I heard him speak I smil'd, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: Therefore if you, or any Creature within this Court, can charge me with any trespass whatsoever, and prove it by testimony, as the Law requireth, or if otherwise, he will oppose himself against me: person to person, grant me but a day, and equal I will, and in combat I will maintain my innocency against him: provided he be equal to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, nor by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the Assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumb and amazed to behold his stoutness. As for the Dove and the Rook, they were so scared, they durst not speak, but privately



privately stole away out of the Court, and being far on the plain, they said, This devillish murderer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can look with better countenance, which only our selves know, but have no other witness, therefore it is better we depart, than try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Ifegrim the Wolf, and Bruine the Bear, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeach the Fox, let him come forth; and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Here is the Fox ready to answer. When said the Fox, my soveraign Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Coney and the Kook: What it is to trust the malice of these Cowards: and how soon they may confound good men, but for me, it matters not: nevertheless had they (at your Majesties commandment) but asked me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behind

The pleasant History

behind me, for I will never shake hands with charity, nor ever hate or complain of mine enemies: my revenge I leave to heaven, and Justice to your Majesties. Then said the King, Reynard, you speak well, if the inward heart be like the outward shew; yet I fear your grief is not so much as you express it: It far surmounts it, said the Fox: No, quoth the King, for I must charge you with one foul treason, which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to go a pilgrimage to the holy Land: when I had furnished you with mule with staff, and all things fitting that holy order, then in the greatest dispute you sent me back in the mule by Bellin the Ram, the head of Keyward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin (our Chaplin) at his death revealed the whole process; and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall fall me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a piteous countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foot to help him: then the King said, Thou villainous and false Traitor, why art thou now so dumb? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetched a sigh as if his heart would have broke; so that every beast pitied him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, which rejoiced to see his sorrow.

CHAP. 29.

How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the Fox to the King, and of the Parable she told him.

DAME *Rukenaw* the She-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard, and a great favourite of the Queens) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speak; and therefore rising up (after reverence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be possess

with



with anger, when you sit in judgment, for it becometh not
 Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should
 only accompany you in that season: for mine own part, I
 think I know the Lawes as well as some which wear furred
 Gowns, for I read many, and put some in use. It is
 well known, I had ever in the Popes palace a bed of straw,
 when

The pleasant History

The Moral.

By the she.
Apes answer-
ing for the
Fox is shew-
ed how apt
weak women
are to be flat-
tered into a-
my belief, in
which they
may either
expres their
pity, or gain
glory. Also it
shews the va-
rifying of the
old proverb,
That a friend
in Court is ever
worth a pound
in a mans
purse. By the
violence of
her defence,
the true nature of
a woman, that
evermore
turns into ex-
treams, and so
she may do
the good or
evil she in-
tend, will
not keep any
thing con-
cealed which
may any way
work for her
purpose, nor
yet any thing
unurged
which may

when other Beasts lay on the bare gramma, & I was ever suf-
fered to speak freely without interruption, because I talk
not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that Princes
are bound to do Justice to all men; nor may the Law wander
or halt with any partiality. I do not think but if every man
which standeth here, should call to account all the actions of his
life, he could not chuse but praise much the estate of my poor
kinsman Reynard; and therefore I wish every one to know
himself, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that
never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To do
amiss and mend it by counsel, is human and manly: but to
trespise and still gallop forward in iniquity, is devilish and
unsufferable: the holy Ghost saith, Be merciful, and judge not,
lest you be judged; and in another place, when the Pharisees
brought a woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned
her to death, asked our Lord what he said thereto: he an-
swered, Which of you all is without sin? let him cast the first stone:
But they all departed and left her: I am mine opinion, it is so
here to day; for here is many that draw in others eyes,
but see not the beams in their own: he that falleth off, and in
tho end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be
damned: goodness never forsaketh her own servants. This
counsel, would some take to their hearts. the day would not
appear so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well
knowing that his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater
reputation in this Court, than either Bruins or Negrim; or their
whole generation. Alas, when have their counsels, or wis-
domes been worthy to have held comparison with those of my
cousin Reynard? why, the passages of the world are to them
prophecies, which they understand not; & the Court is turned
topside turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and
the good suppressed: but how this can long endure, I see not;
since the end of their labour is but the ruin of your Majesty.
At this speech the King made this answer: Dame, had the
for some, that offence to you, he hath done to others, your ex-
cuse would couch in another nature; you cannot blame me to
hate

Of Reynard the Fox.

hate him, since it is only he which breaketh my laws and co-
venants? you have heard him accused of theft, murder and
treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs
make him your Saints, then set him upon the Altar, and do
him worship, but believe it, there is no one good thing in him:
and however you imagine, yet search him, and you shall find
him rotten and deformed; there is neither kinsman nor
friend (but your self) that will assist him, and therefore your
violence draws my greater wonder. What companion hath
he that ever thrived by his society? or whom hath he smil'd
on, that his tail hath not after dash't out the eye of.

disgrace those
that are of the
contrary
faction, as
may appear
by the tale of
the Man and
the Serpent,
in which the
sheweth the
wisdom of
the Fox, and
the folly and
disability of
relear, the
Wolf and the
rest of the
Foxes cae-
mies

To this the Sheepe replied: My Lord, I love him, and
have ever boyn him a singular reverence; and I can well re-
count one noble and good action he did in your presence, for
which then you thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the
heaviest thing should ever weigh the most, and men should
keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with
violence; since constancy is the greatest ornament of a
Princely nature. We should not praise the day till the even-
ing come; nor is good counsel available, but to those which
mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this
Court a man and a serpent to have judgment in a doubtful
controverſie. For the Serpent attempting to go through a
hedg, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was
no way to escape with life: A certain man passing by, the
Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or
else he should perish presently. The man taking pity of him,
said, If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt
with thy tooth or tail, or other poison about thee, I will release
thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not, neither at
that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unloosed him,
and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a
long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rush-
ing upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started
aside, and said, What meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten
thine

The Pleasant History



rhine oath? the Serpent replied, no: but, I may justly kill thee, since I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancel-
leth all obligations. When the man said, If it be so, yet give
me leave to live till we may meet with the next passenger,
which may judge the controversy.

The Serpent agreed thereto, so they travelled till they met
with

of Reynard the Fox.

With Tiselfin the Raven; and Skape his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Serpent should eat the man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judg this cause? it must not be one, but others, and such as know both Law and equity, that must judg this contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

When they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his venom at the man, but the man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the Man, by such as are murderers themselves, and such as never kept promise; but I appeal to the Court, let me be tryed by your King, and what judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolves two children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-Belly, the other Navel-sul, because they sought to devour the Man. So the full process of the matter was declared to your Majesty: But the mans kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and faith-breach, occasioned through the extremity of hunger, Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Council also: For the Mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the Mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raised much pity in your bosome. But in the end, such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judg it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to decide the business: Then was he Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majesty it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations, but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therein.

The pleasant History

thereto. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as befoze in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majesty, Reynard, what iudgment will you now



giue? And he replied, They are now, my Lord, in the same estate they were befoze at their first encounter: they haue neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure, if it be your Majesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent, upon the same promise and oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his faith, then may the man go freely whither he will, and leave the Serpent bound and inhalled as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This Iudgment

of Reynard the Fox.

ment your Majesty then applauded for the most excellent, and held the wisdom of the Fox unlimitable, terming him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear, or Wolf, the like? they can howl or scold, steal, rob, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruins, and condemn him to death which takes a Chicken; but themselves which kill Kine, Oren, and Horses, & they go safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and their Deeds and Statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where virtues to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go foremost whilst they follow in the retreat, with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord and the like) are the fools of these corrupt times, yet destroy Towns, Castles, Lands and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit only at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his Family, have ever made the honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: this hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thankless. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majesty loves, his kindred is fallen from him, and start at his fortune: would any but your Highness have affirmed it, you should then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your Grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to him that so durst do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highness may call to mind the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing ever to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard. For mine own part, I am one my self, and albeit I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not flinch to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have three full grown Children, which are known valiant and strong in arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost peril, albeit I love them with that dear affection that no other

The pleasant History

ther both exceed me: my first son is called Briclas, which is most active and nimble; my second Fairump, the third is a daughter called Hattaret, a girl that can look a mans head, and pick out lice more nimble than all the combs in Christendome; and these three are loving and dear to one another; and with that she called them forth unto her, and said,



Come my dear children, and stand with your kinsman the Noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all petitioners to the King, that he will do to Reynard the equity of his Laws and kingdom. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel, and the Ferret: for these love Pullen as well as Reynard doth; Then came the Otter and Pentecote his wife, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they dare not, but obey Dame Rukewaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdoms and greatness: and with these came above twenty other

of Reynard the Fox.

her beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also some Atrot and her two sisters, the Weasel, and Harmel the Als, the Brock, the water-Cat, and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard, with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the She-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see that my kinsman hath friends which dare avow him; and we are your true and Loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard, may have Justice, and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass, for we will not murmur to see his Destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukenaw, Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Libard said, Sir, you must judge according to witness: for to be governed by will, is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you inform me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death, and others informations, robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law, or Reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and Loyal.

How infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me new blossoms on my dy'd Roses, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance on: and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered for my renown and glory.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 21.

How Reynard excused himself of Kaywards death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour, and made relation of certain Jewels.



Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said, Alas my Sovereign Lord, what is that you said? Is good Kayward the Hare dead? Where is then Bellin the Ram? or what did he bring to your Majesty at his return? For it is certain, I delivered him three rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my Sovereign Lady the Queen. But (said the King) I received nothing but the head of poor murdered Kayward, for which I executed the Ram, having confessed the deed to be done by his advice and counsel. Is this truth (said the Fox) then twis me that ever I was born,

of Reynard the Fox.

hozn, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in
the possession of any Prince living : would I had died when
you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of
my wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me. Then said
the Wbe-Ape, Dear Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for
transitory wealth? Let them go, only discourse what manner
of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them again :
If not, the Magician D. Alkarin shall labour his books, and
search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever
detains them, shall be curst in all Parishes, till he restore
them to the Kings Majesty. O Aunt (said the Fox) do not
perswade your self so; for whosoever hath them, will not re-
store them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and preci-
ous : yet your words do something appease me. But whom
shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even sanctity it self
walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh,
with which he guiled his dissimulation, he proceeded on, and
said, Hearken all you of my Stock and Lineage, for I will
here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I
and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which
indeed I intended to his Majesty) was a Ring of fine and
pure Gold, and within this Ring next the finger, were en-
graven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, contain-
ing three Hebrew names; for my own part, I could neither
read nor spell them: but R. Abrion of Trece, the excellent lin-
guist who knoweth the nature of all manner of Herbs, Beasts
and Minerals, to this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once,
and he assured me, that they were those three Names which
Serh brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his Father
Adam the Oyl of of mercy. And whosoever shall wear these
three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder and
Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over
him : He shall not be tempted to do any sin, neither shall
heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was
encast a most precious Stone of three several colours; The
first like red Chrysal, and glittering like fire, and that with
such brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

The Moral.

By the re-
lation which
the Fox made
of the Jewels,
and their se-
veral virtues
and riches, is
shewed the
policy of the
wicked,
which are e-
ver prepared
of those baits
which they
know will
soonest catch
the minds of
them they are
to intangle:
as wealth,
health, ho-
nour, and vir-
tue, all which
be lodged in
those Jewels.
As for the sto-
ries contain-
ed in them,
the Fox doth
moralize
them himself,
shewing in
them severa-
ly, the impu-
tations he
would have
the Lyon
know to be
in his enemy
and such ex-

The pleasant History



the light thereof was so great, as that at Noon-day. The o-
ther colour was white and clear, as if it had been burnished;
and the virtue of it was to cure any blemish, or soreness in
the eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by stroking the place
agrieved therewithall) it presently cured all manner of sores,
any violent kings, head-achs, or any sickness whatsoever; whether it
were

of Reynard the Fox.

Were venom, weakness of stomack, collick, stone, strangu-
ry, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as a soze,
shewed, or inwardly, by steeping the stone in water, and then
drinking the same. The last colour was green like grass mixt
with a few small spots of purple : and the learned affirmed
for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could
never be vanquish't by his enemies; and that no creature,
were he never so strong and hardy, but would yield unto him,
and he should be victor day and night in all places. Again, as
far as one boze it falling, into what company soever he chan-
ced (were they his worst enemies) yet should he be of them in-
finately beloved, nor should any anger or ill turn be remem-
bered : Also if one should be naked in a vast wide field, against
an hundred armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him,
but he should come off with honour and victory: only he must
be nobly bred, and of no churlish disposition; for the King
gave no virtue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now
all these virtues considered, I thought my self unworthy to
keep it : and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King,
knowing you to be the most excellent of all creatures living;
& one on whom all our lives depend; and therefore fittest to
be guarded with so rich a Jewel.

This Ring I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the
same place also I found a Comb, and a glass, Mirror, which
my Wife desired of me : they were Jewels of great won-
der and admiration : these were sent to my lady the Queen,
because of her grace and mercy extended towards me : To
speak of the Comb, it can never be too much praised, for it
was made of the bone of a noble beast named Panthera, which
lieth between the greater India and earthly Paradise : he is so
goodly and fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour
under Heaven but some splendor thereof appears in him: also
the smell of him is so delicate, sweet and wholsom, that the be-
rry saubour cureth all infirmities; and for his excellent beauty
and rare odour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he
is the Physician to all their sicknesses. This Panthera hath
one fair bone broad and thin, which whensoever this beast is
sain,

speech or in-
vection what-
soever. By
the repeating
of his and his
Fathers servi-
ces, is shewed,
the subtil in-
sinnation of
offenders,
which to ex-
tenuate pre-
sent crimes,
call to mind
their good
deeds past; not
so much for
the memory
of the good
example, as to
beg a new re-
ward, though
it have been
never so often
paid for; for
noble spirits
have ever a
tender feel-
ling, and are
soon toucht
with the re-
membrance
of any good
turns receiv-
ed; for it is an
obligation
they seldom
cancel.

The pleasant History

flaine, & the virtues of the whole beast do rest in that bone which
can neuer be broken, neither euer rot, consume or perishe,



either by fire, water, or other violence : yet it is so light, a
small feather may poise it : the smell of it hath that virtue,
that whosoever scents it taketh delight in no other smell what-
soever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases
and infirmities ; and the heart is chearful and merry euer
after.

This Comb is polished like unto fine Silver, and the teeth
of it be small and straight ; and between the great teeth and
the small, in a large field or space, there is graven many an
Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with
fine gold : the field is checked with Sables and Silver, and
enamelled with Gybor and Azure : and therein is contained
the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas, strove for the golden
Ball in the Mountain Ida, and how it was put to Paris, to give
it to the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his flocks
with

of Reynard the Fox.

with Oncne, on that hill; and as soon as he had receiv'd the Ball, Juno promis'd if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest man in the World. Pallas said, That she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the World, and the most fortunate against his enemies. But when Venus said, What needest thou wealth, wisdom, or valour? Art thou not Priamus son, and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art not thou one of the Heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the World, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing; she, whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer than riches, and climb above all in glory: that's the wealth none can praise too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turns all things in man to joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady? and Venus said, It is Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus; she that is the Gem of the World, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which did behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer than the other Goddesses. When another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the Marriage, the honour at the Triumphs, and all things else contain'd in that large story.

Now for the Glasse-mirro, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glass that stood thereon, was of such virtue, that men might see and perceibe therein, whatsoever was done within a mile thereof, whether it was the actions of man, or beast, or any thing else the owner should desire to know, and whosoever but gazed therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the virtues of this rare Glass, that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the loss: for the wood in which this glass stood, was light & fast, and is called Oatline, it will last ever: for worms, dust, wet, nor time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon seeled his Temple with the same: the value far exceeding that of gold, it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King

Crampart

The pleasant History



Crampart made a Horse, for the love of the most beautiful daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horse was made with such Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he would run above an hundred miles in less than an hour, which was approved by Clamades the Kings son; who not being lying in the Engin, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the

of Reynard the Fox.

the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the breast of the Engine, moved, and went out of the Palace through the windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten mile. Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the story said) that he should never have returned back again: But of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the wooden beast, I leaue to speak, for tediousness sake; onely the high virtue of all, infused from the wood.

Of this wood the Glass-case was made, being larger then the Glasse by half a foot and more, square, upon which verge was decyphered others many strange Histories, in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Yellow, Azure & Cynope: & these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enamelled, that any man might read the whole Story: believe it, the world never produced a thing of a greater worth, lustre, or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair and fiery, which chased a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftnesse, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a Heardsman standing by, and told him, if he would help him to take a Hart, which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the horses skin, and flesh: Then the Heardsman asked him, what means he should use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Heardsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer: but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bade the Heardsman light, for he would rest himself awhile. But the Heardsman said, I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heels, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himself into thraldom, and was taken in his own net: for no creature

The pleasant History

that a greater abberity than his own end, and many
which labour the hurt of others, will fall upon their own
ruines.

In another part was figured an Aile and a Hound, which
were both the servants of a rich man. This man loved his
Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer
the dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to
lick him about the mouth. Now when Baldwin the Aile
saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said What sees
my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to
leap upon him and kiss him? I see no profitable service he
doth him, I labour, bear and draw, and do more service in
one week, than the dog and his whole kind are able to do
in a year, and yet have I not the tenth of his favours: for he
sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies
on Carpets and Pillows; when I that do all, am fed only
with Pettles and Whistles: well, I will no longer indure it,
but I will strive to have my Lords favour as much as the
Hound, if not in greater measure. When the Master of the
house came home, and the Aile lifting up his tail, leapt with
his fore-feet on his shoulders, and baying and grinning,
put forth his mouth to kiss him, and used such rude unman-
nerly actions, that he raved all the skin from his Masters
ears, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forced
to cry out, Help, help, for this Aile will kill me. Then came
in his servants with staves, and beat the Aile so exceed-
ingly, that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to
his stall again: and was an Aile as he was before. In the
same manner, they would be envied and fight at others' dis-
fare, if they receive the same reward: it is nothing more
than is due to their merit: for an Aile is an Aile, and was
born to eat Whistles: and where Ailes govern, there yet
is never observed, for they have no eye either on this door,
or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are
advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the story, how my father
and Tybert the Cat travelled together, and had won by their
troth

of Reynard the Fox.

troth, that neither for love nor hate, they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time, they saw Hunters coming o'er the fields with a Kennel of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tybert, whether shall we flee; for the Hunters have espied us? for mine own part, I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what needs many words? I have but one wile, and that must help me, and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennel pursued him, horns and halloes echoing after him, kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tybert saw, he mocked my Father, and said, Now Cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles; for if your wit fail you, I fear your whole body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, & being then in the height of his pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himself so much leighter, yet all availed not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds & Huntsmen. When you may see the false faith of the Cat, like whom there may be many living at this time; and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my souls health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred, as the remembrance of his injuries, which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Mirror stands another History of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Hare, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and devour the bones, which he did with such greediness, that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so cross his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escap'd with life: whereupon

The pleasant History

he sought every place for the cunningest Burglons, promising him great gifts to ease his torments: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and he sought him with his long neck and bill to help him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolfs throat, and brought out the Bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and cryed out aloud, Thou hurt'st me, but I do forgive thee: yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not bear it: then the Crane said: Sir Isegrim, go and be scolltick, you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Wolf) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I, which deserved the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungrateful men in these days, how they ever reward good with evil: for wheres pride is exalted, thers honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries, but the guerdon will follow: for it is the wisest counsel, That whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own clearness. All this, and a world more than I can well remember, was curiously wrought on this Glass: for the workmaster thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King & Queens Majesties as a Present, to witness my faith and service: And he that had seen what sorrow my Children made when I sent the Glass away, would have wondered; for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparel became them.

of Reynard the Fox.

Little did I then imagine that good Kayward was so neer his death : for, than but himself, and Bellin the Ram, I know no messenger worthy to carry such a present. But I will teach the whole world, but I will find the murtherer; for murther cannot be hid. It may be, he is in this presence which knows what is become of Kayward, albeit he do conceal it; for many devils walk like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubles me most,) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father, nor my self, ever did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulness in Kings; otherwise your Majesty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old; my Father came from the School at Mountpelier, where he had studied five years the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the principles thereof; and so famous in those days, that he wore cloaths of Silk, and a Golden Circle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they would, onely he must ever be neer him. Then said your Father, Reynard, I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sickness increasing. My Father answered; my Lord, here is a Urinal, make water therein, and as soon as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was advised, (for he trusted not any equal with him.) Then said my Father, My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liquor of a Wolf of seven years old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Isegrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liquor. The Wolf replied: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liquor, I will tell you if it be medicinable: Then was the Wolf carried to the Kitchen,

The pleasant History

chin, and his Liquor taken out, which the King did eat, and was presently cured of his sickness. When the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Master Reynard. He abode still about the King, walking by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (so an honour) a Garland of Roses, which he must ever wear upon his head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now only advanced; virtue is put back, and innocence alibed in sedition: for when baseness and covetousness are under commanders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the lowliness from whence they are risen. They have no hearts for pity, nor ears for the poor mans cause. Gold is the god they run to, and gifts the god which they worship. What great mans Gate, doth not look upon Covetousness? where is not flattery entertained, and what Prince takes hate at his own praises? But should greatness need their honest service; well might they warbe ere they could gain that employment: for like Moloch, they had rather see their Masters dye, then lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This my Lord, was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I myself may say, I have done to you both honour and service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I vow I do not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are ever worthy of more then I can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyal Subject, which I am ever bound by the Lawes of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Hegrim the Wolf, & I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extrem lowd crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying, That you and the Queen your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, & intreated us to give you part of our getting: Hegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him, but I spake out aloud: with all my heart my Lord, & were it better then

of Reynard the Fox.

it is; it were too mean for your service. But Hegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giving you and the Queen but one poor quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured, and left me for my share, but poor half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none: so that you reacht him a blow with your foot, which took all the skin from about his ears, so that he ran away crying and howling with extremity. But your Majesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. When I besought your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his ears dropping blood all the way as he went: in the end, we took a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laughed, and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity: When you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majesty, the other half to the Queen: As for the Puddings, Liver, Lungs and all the inward parts, I sent them to the young Princes your Chlozen: As for the Head, I gave it to Hegrim the Wolf, and took unto myself but the feet onely. When said your Majesty, Ah Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits here with his bloomy pate; for he lost his skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousness hath reaped nothing but Shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Nay, if they had power, even your Majesty also; for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But we to that Common-wealth, where such have the upper hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousness sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will
one

The pleasant History

one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure, though now that Judgment is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the onely thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise, and prove it by witness, here I stand so inure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the combat according to the Law, and instances of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well; now know I any thing worse of Kaywards death, than the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Knap; therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the For) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easie: I remember, my heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain presage of the loss which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the For, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his loss, and pittied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

CHAP.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Ysgrim
the Wolf complained of him again.

The Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and
though he little meant to perform what they intreated,



The pleasant History

yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they gave him in his greatest misery, vowing not to rest neither night nor day, but to search all the corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels : also intreating his Majesty, that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attain unto them, that then his Highness would assist him : both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his office, being an Act of perfect Justice, to punish these, and murder both, which were contained in this action.

Then the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The King gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastened the King unto him, that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him : surely began the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer, he said, O my Lord the King ! is it possible your Majesty should be so childish or weak of belief, as to lay your trust on the falshood of this ever-deceiving Merchant, which hath nothing but Wonders and Chymera's wherewith to inchant you ? Be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all covered and belmeared with murder and treason, and even to your own face hath made a scoff of your Majesty. For my own part, I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a peal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dear Lord) that this dissembling and false Traitor, not long since did betray my wife most shamefully : for it hapned upon a winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great water, and he perswaded my wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tail, by letting it hang angle-wise in the water a

good

of Reynard the Fox.

good while : wherunto he saith, there would so much fish in
stantly cleave, that half a dozen of them should not be able to



debout it. The silly fool my wife (supposing all to be truth
which came from him) went presently into the mire up to
the belly before she came to the water; and coming into the
depth

The pleasant History

depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her tail down
still in the water, expecting when the fish should cleave there,
to : but the weather being sharp and frosty, she stood
there so long, that her tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that
all the force she had, was not able to pull it out : but when
this lustful villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her
and ravish't her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that
no modest ear is able to hear the odiousness of the action.
My poor Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might
she shrink, cry, and feed upon the bryne of her own tears, but
all to no purpose, the deed was done, and the villain triumphed.
This no impudence can make him deny, for I came
and took him in the action : O how much zealous, grief
and fury assail'd me at that instant, I was even distracted to
behold them : and cryed Reynard, villain, what art thou do-
ing? but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt
from her, and ran his way : so I went unto her with much
sorrow and heaviness, having a world of labour ere I could
break the Ice about her ; and in despite of all my cunning,
yet she was compelled to leave a piece of her tail behind her :
and indeed, we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by
reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud,
that the people of the next Villages rose up, and came with
staves, and bills, with flails and pitch-forks, and the wives
with their distaves, and so fiercely assaulted us, crying kill,
kill, and slay, slay, that I never was in so desperate a taking.
One slave amongst the rest, which was strong, and swift of
foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff, and had not the night be-
friended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence
we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where
we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious
Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murderer hath
used us, and against the same we crave the right of your
Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I con-
fess it would touch me near in honour and reputation : but
God forbid that such a slander should be proved against
me:

of Reynard the Fox.

me : I confesse, I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water, and never touch the mire : but her greediness so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction ; and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen, by reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish than would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites : but it is commonly seen, that who all would have, all forego : for covetousness seldom bringeth any thing well home : yet when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I used all my best indeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and shoving about her, but to little purpose ; for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

Now, whilst this was in doing, came Isegrim, and seeing one so busie about her, Churl-like he most vilely slandered me, like a profuse tattler, which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold : but believe it, my gracious Lord, all was false, and his wife virtuous, for any thing within my knowledge ; whence I am perswaded, that surely his eyes dazzled ; for indeed, he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatened much revengement against me ; so that more to eschew his blasphemy than fury, I went my way ; and he came, and with as great ado, and as much heave and shove, he helped her out, which done, (then they almost starved with cold) ran and skipt up and down the fields to get them heat ; and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be deposed ; for I would not be the father of any falsehood before your Majesty, to be Master of many millions : however my fortunes go, I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath ever been the Ensign of all my Ancestors : and if there be any scruple or doubt made of mine assertion, I ask but eight daies liberty, that I may confer with my learned Council, and I will so approve all my words, by my Oath and testimony of good and sufficient witness, that your Majesty, and your honourable Council shall accord to the justness of my protestation. As for the Wolf, what have I to do with him ? It is well known already, that he is a debauched and almost noto-

The Moral.

By the complaint of the Wolf is shewed, the envy that one ill man bears another, and how loath they are, that any of their contrary factions should scape punishment ; & that

to gain revengement, they care not what indignity they do to themselves, as doth appear by the Wolfs slandering of his own wife. By the rising of the Town up against the Wolf and his wife, is shewed, that one mischief seldom cometh to all folks, but another still follows it at the heels.

By the Foxes excuse is shewed, how policy hath ever an evasion, or a cloak for any evil it doth, and

rious

The pleasant History

can colour every thing with a pretence of goodness. The Fox his contempt of the Wolf, shews, that the strength or policy consists in disgracing the adverse part, & calling his good name in question, by which means he may lose his life and credit. By the she-Wolf, falling into the well,

rious villain; false both to Heaven and to your Majesty; and now his own words witness him a base slanderer of women: therefore I refer my self to the tryal of his wife: if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty; provided she may be made free from her husband, whose tyranny will compel her to say any thing, though never so unjustly.

At this, forth stept dame Alswinde the Wolses wife, and said. O Reynard, thou hast so oyle a smooth tongue, and so deep in flattery, that no man is safe from thine enchantment: it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me; remember but how thou didst use me at the Well with two buckets: which hanging at one end, and running through one pulley, which ever as one went down, the other went up: I remember how thou getting into one of them, fell down to the bottom of the Well, and there satst in great danger and peril, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and make great moan: then asking thee how thou cam'st there? thou answerdest me, that thou wert there a fishing; and hadst so



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much

of Reynard the Fox.

most fish, of which, thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to break with swelling : then I asked how I might come to thee ; and thou saidst, Aunt, leap into that bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt be presently with me : which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier than thyself) I fell presently to the bottom of the well, and thou camest up to the top : at which, when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst ; Aunt, this is but the fashion of the well : ever as one comes up, another must go down ; and so said, you leapt out of the bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and starved with cold ; and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied, Aunt, though the strokes were painful unto you, yet, I had rather you should have them than my self, for you are stronger, and better able to bear them ; and at that time of necessity, one of us could not escape them : besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he persuades to, is the avoiding of his own peril : for nature teacheth us to love our own welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of folly.

Then said Dame Arsewinde to the King : I beseech your Majesty, mark how this dissembler can blow with all winds, and paint his mischiefs with false colours : a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betraied me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere I escaped, I was faine to leave one of my ears behind me : if the Fox dare tell the truth of the Roze (for I know his memory to be much better, besides, he is apt to catch advantage from the weakness of Language) I desire no better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, willingly I will do it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I beseech your Majesty, to lend me your Royal patience.

Upon a certain time, the Wolf here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me, that he was exceeding hungry,

shews the effects of covetousness, which never brings any thing home but loss and danger ; and that policy cares not who pines, so he feel no pain, as appears by the Foxes tempting her into the Bucket. By their entering into the She-Apes Cave is shewed, the difference betwixt temperance & rashness, and how far good words will prevail before rude & churlish behaviour.

The pleasant History

gry, (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but he would ever dissemble : at which, presently I took pity of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he : so away we went and travelled half a day together without finding any thing; then began he to waine and cry, and said, he was able to go no further. Then harn by the foot of a Hathorn tree, we espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rushing therein, but could not imagine the cause why : then I desired the Wolf to go in, and look if any thing were there to profit us, (for something I knew there was) then said he, Cousin, I would not creep into the hole for a hundred pounds till I know certainly what is therein, for there may be danger : but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and wit to save your self, I will stay here under this Tree till you return, but I beseech you make haste, and let me know what is therein, as soon as you perceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me, poor silly Beast, to go before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong, and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I expressed no little friendship, for I would not endure the like danger for a Kingdom : but to proceed, I entred into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious : in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the other side of the hole, by which, I saw there lying a great She-Ape, with eyes glimmering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and on her hands, nailes sharp as an Ellin, or Bodkin. I imagined her at first a Parmazin, or Baboon, or else a Mercat, for a more dreadful Beast I never beheld in all my life time; and by her side lay divers of her children, which like her self were cruel and stern of countenance : when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide with their mouthes upon me, so that I grew amazed, and wist not my self far from their harbour. But resolving with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her and me, thought she appeared bigger than Hegrim the Wolf, and the least of her bzats much larger than my self, (for a fouler company

of Reynard the Fox.

company I never saw) they were all laid in foul litter, rotten and stinky with their own piss, they were all daubed and clogged with their own dung, which stunk so filthy, that I was almost poisoned with the smell. For my own part, I durst not but speak them fair, and therefore I said, Aunt, God give you many good daies, and bless you and my Cousins, your pretty Children: questionless they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld, and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholding to you that doth add this increase and glory to your family. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delivered, I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you: Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a Ant, but I thank you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgment, held of singular reputation; you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the means you work to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with none but the good and the virtuous.

How glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her! which kindness was only because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is only Dame Rukenaw, which standeth yonder: who indeed is mother of excellent children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foul Monster: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your commandment, and your childrens. Yet I most heartily wish my self far from them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their stink. And I pittied Isgrim, who was sore gripped with
A hunger

The pleasant History

hunger all this while? and offering to take my leave, and feigning, that my wife would think it long till my return, She said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it unkindly if you offer it: then rose she up, and carried me into an inner Room, where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow, Deer, and Roe: and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side and half a haunch of a Hind, to carry home to my Wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave, and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causay, I spied whereas Isgrim lay groaning pitifully; and I asked him how he fared? He said, wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (Dear Nephew) without some meat, I die presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wives token, which preserved his life, and for which, then he gave me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extremely. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my Dear Cousin, what found you in the hole? believe it I am now more hungry than I was before, and this small morsel hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. When said I to him, Uncle get you into that hole, and you shall find store of Mice, for there lieth my Aunt with her Children: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit; but rude and barbarous beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw, (being affrighted) he cried out, ~~Woe~~ and alas, I think I am come into hell: did ever

of *Reynard the Fox.*

ever creature see such fearful goblins? Drown them, for shame drown them, they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil; why, they make my hair stand an end with their horrible deformity. Then (said she) Sir Isegrim, their Creation is not my fault, let it suffice, they are my children, and I am their Mother. For ought their beauty or hard favour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs to day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely; for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he replied, Dame, I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed on me, than on those ugly Archins. But she told him, she had no meat: Yes (said he) here is meat enough, and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt started up with her children, and ran at him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry and howl so extremely, that it appeared he had no defence but to run out of the hole as fast as he could. For indeed, he came out both extremely beaten, and extremely bitten, and all his skin slought like a Spanish Jerkin: and one ear left behind, as a pawn of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently? and he said, he had spoken as he found, for the Dame was a foul Witch, and the Litter most ugly Monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and took them for the best of his alliance. And he replied he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must always receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much availeth, as a true tale: and fair words never come out of season; and better than we, hold it for a rule worthy of Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to deny, for all is true without any addition.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 23.

How *Isegrim* profered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted, and how *Rakenaw* advised the Fox to carry himself in the fight.

The Wolf answered the Fox, I may well forbear (false Villain, as thou art) thy mocks and scozns, but thine injuries I will not. Thou say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou liest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a Ware-bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know, in this thou injuriest my reputation, again, thou accusest me of treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certain treasure thou sayest is in Husterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not redenged: these things considered, I have forborn you long, therefore now look not to escape; wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our own consciences, here before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm, and approve to the last drop of my blood, that thou Reynard the Fox, art a false Traitor and a Murderer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy body within the Lists of the field, body against body, by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness whereof, I cast thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for mine injuries, or else dye like a Recresant.

Reynard was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worst: but straight remembzng the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfs fore-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, he said, Whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor, or a Murderer, I say, he lieth in his Whoot, especially *Isegrim* above all others: poor fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in sign whereof I take up the gage, and throw down mine, to approve all thy words lyes and falsehoods.

This



This said, the King receiued their pledges, and admitted
the battel, commanding them to put in their surety, that the
next morrow they should try the combat : then went forth the
Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolf : and
for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Brock, and Bytelus.
When

The pleasant History



The Moral.

By the Wols
challenging
the combat of
the Fox, is
shewed, the
madness of
rage & fury,
& how neg-
ligent it is in
respecting its
own hazard,
so it may do
mischief to
the adversary
The Fox's
accepting of
it, shews how
when policy
hath no other
shifting hole,

When all ceremonies were finished, the Che. Ape took Reynard aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take care of your self in this battel, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a prayer of singular virtue for him which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholar and Clark, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be overcome in Combat, and therefore my best Nephew be not afraid, for to morrow I will read it over to you, and the Wolf shall never prevail against you. The Fox gave her many thanks for her favours, and told her his quarrel was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of his happy success: so all that night he rested with his kinsfolks about him, who drave away the time with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukew his Aunt, will beat her brain how to work him advantage in the Combat; wherefore she caused all his hair to be shaven off even from his head to the tail, and then she annointed all his body quite over with oyl Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the

Wolf

of Reynard the Fox.

Wolfe could catch no hold of him: besides he was round, fat, and plump of body, which much abailed to his advantage: then she advised him that night to drink exceeding much, that he might be more apt to piss in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he come into the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, & see time fitting, piss upon your bushy tail, and strike it in the Wolfe's face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: but at these special times keep your tail as close as can be between your legs, lest he catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your self at the first, and by all means shun his blows, making him to toyl and run after you, especially there where most dust is, and spring it up with your feet, make it fly in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him where you may do him most mischief, eber and anon striking him on the face with your talle full of piss, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and weary him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt, by the loss of his shoo's, which you caused to be pulled off, he will not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak. This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your self in these cases, Art prevaileth as much as courage; therefore regard your self well, that not only your self, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charm of Prayer which your Uncle Martin taught me, by which you may be invincible, it is this which followeth. When laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorsons, Arsbunro. Now Nephew, assure your self you are free from all mischief or danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest for it is near day, and some sleep will make the body better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for eber: and in those holy words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable, & so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in the grass, till it was

The pleasant History

was Sun rise : at what time the Otter came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, saying, Dear Cousin, I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and said, it was fortunate hantel, and if he



of Reynard the Fox.

Forbiden that day, he should find he would requite it: so the
fox eat the Duck without bread or sauce, more than his
hunger, and to it he drank four great draughts of water, and
then he went to the place appointed where the lists stood,
with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus shorn and oyled, he



The pleasant History

said to him: Well For, I see you are careful of your own safety: you respect not beauty, so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himself down humbly to the Earth, both before the King and the Queens Majesties, went forth into the Field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood boasting, and gibing out many proud and vain-glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libard, and the Lofs. These brought forth a Book, on which the Wolf swoze; and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traytor, and a Murderer, which he would prove on his body, or else he counted a Recreant. Then Reynard took the Book, and swoze, he lyed as a false Traytor and a Thief, which he would prove on his body, or be accounted a Recreant.

When these Ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the Field had them to their devoir. And then every creature acknowledged the Lists, save Dame Rukew, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years old, he had then wisdom enough to pissa the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candle-light, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: and therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an eternal Monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (my best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a little of your counsel; I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the App said, Amen; and so departed.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 24.

Of the Combat betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the Event, Passages, and Victory.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolf went toward the Fox with infinite rage and furie, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf pursued him: so that there began a tedious chase between them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger strides than the Fox often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox abbed the blow, and smote him on the face with his tail, which was all so be-pist, that the Wolf was stricken almost blind, the piss smarted so extremely. And he was forced to rest while he glaired his eyes, which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf. This grieved him worse than the former; so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes, smarted so sore,

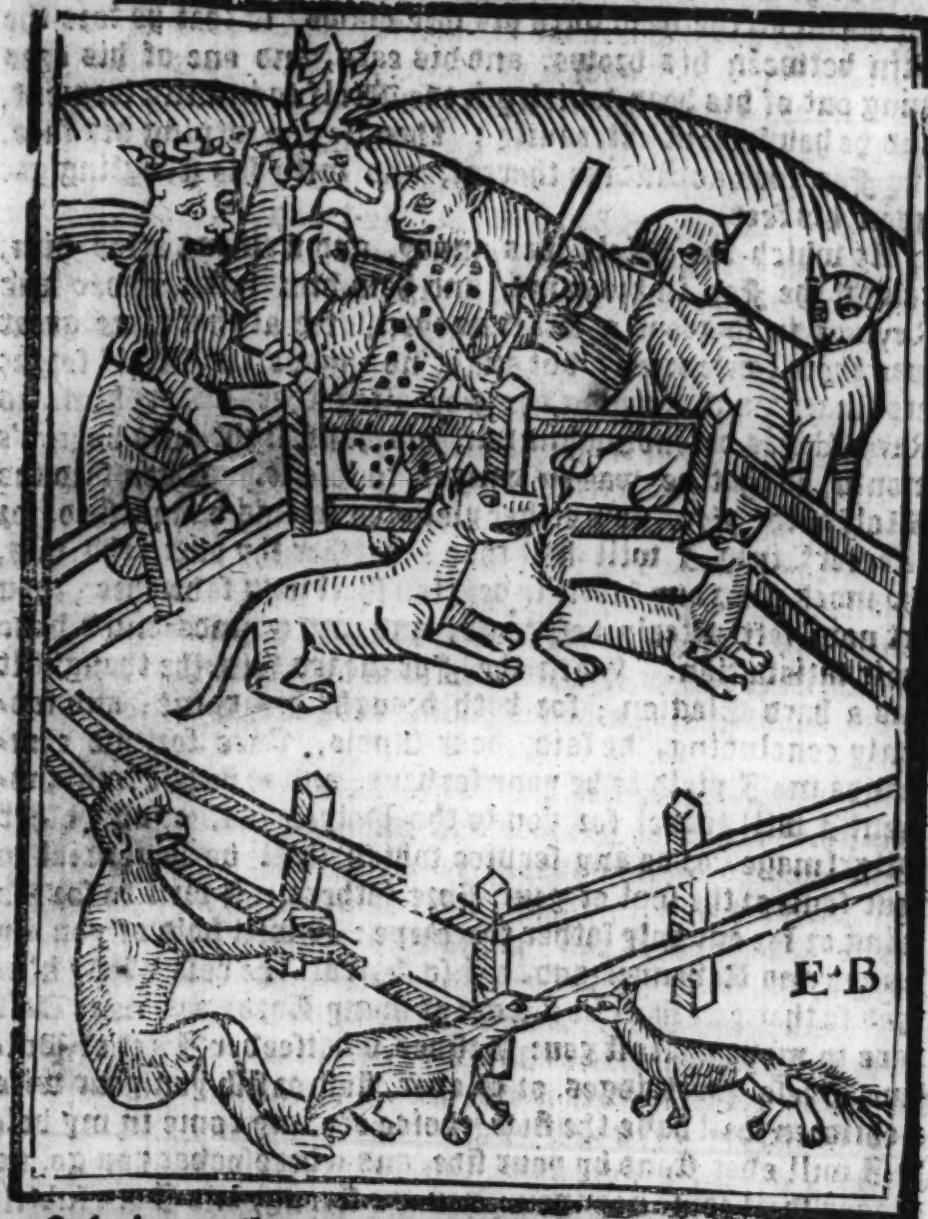
The pleasant History

that of force he must rub and wash it away, which Reynard feeling, with all the fury he had, he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said, have I hit you Mr. Wolf? I will yet hit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your Knavery: I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee thy absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness and confess thy self vanquished (though thou beest the worst thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Negrim both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to express his fury; his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury, he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encountered the Wolf, that between them begun a dreadful and doubtful Combate. The Wolf, was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oily, he could not hold him. Nay, so wonderful nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolf thought to have him surest, he would shift himself between his legs, and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolf a bite with his teeth, or a swab on the face with his tail, that the poor Wolf found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and bitings passed on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one fury, the other temperance. In the end, the Wolf being enraged that the battel had continued so long (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this combat; for, I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I lose much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, he struck the Fox again so sore a blow on the head

of Reynard the Fox.

with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he
could recover himself, and arise, he caught him in his feet,
and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if
he would have pressed him to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his
friends also, and all Isegrim's friends began to shout for joy:

The pleasant History

The Moral.

By the Wolfs furious assailing the Fox, and the Fox his watching and pursuing of advantages, is shewed the folly of rage and passion, and the discretion of temperance and wisdom: the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety. By the pist-tail is exprest, the sharp afflictions with which wisdom ever punishes rashness; and by the loss of the Wolfs eye, is shewed, that madness and rage is ever more but blindness. The Wolfs catching the Fox, & holding him in his power, shews that fortune sometimes fa-

but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his claws, being along, but the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws, his feet were so close, only with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him; which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on the head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the skin between his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he howled out extremly: then Hegerim wiping his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his struggling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into Hegerim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. When said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yield thy self as vanquished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy out, thy piss, thy mocks, nor any subtil invention shall now save thee; thou art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard Election; for both brought his ruine, and suddenly concluding, he said, dear Uncle, since fortune commands me I yield to be your servant; and at your commandment I will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other pilgrimage, or do any service which shall be beneficial to your soul, or the soul of your fore-fathers: I will do for the King or for our holy father the Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and Revenues; and as I, so shall all the rest of my kindred, so that you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Pullets, Geese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife & children shall have the first choice ere any come in my belly; I will ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you go, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtil, we two joyned together, what force can prevaile against us? Again,

of Reynard the Fox.

Reynard. You are so neat in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmity between us: I would not have fought against you, had I been sure of victory, but that you first appeared, and then you know of necessity I must do my utmost: I have also in this battel been courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you may well perceive by my running from you, I tell you, it was an action much contrary to my nature: for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me by any thing more than the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, and wish it had not happened: yet thereby know, that you shall reap rather benefit than loss thereby, for when other Beasts in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at your feet, before you in my presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live: I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never live in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? Therefore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashness is ever the Mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be ballant, wise, and discreet, and you rather seek honour, peace, and good fame, than blood and revenge.

Isengrim the Wolf said. Infinite dissembler, how saine wouldst thou be freed of my servitude? Too well I understand thee, and know that if thou wert safe on thy feet, thou wouldst forswear this submission: but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom; for thee and thy friends I esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird, for thy Lime-bush chaff cannot deceive me: How wouldst thou triumph, if I should believe thee; and say, I wanted wit to understand thee; but thou shalt know, I can look both on this side, & beyond thee: thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. When I said, thou hast spared me in the battel: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how false thou wast, you.

The pleasant History

thou never gad'st me a time to breathe in, nor wilt I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rather, when I think of the dishonour thou dost to my bed, and how inhumanly thou dost ravish my dear wife, Dame Arlewind.

Now, whilst Hegrim was thus talking, the Fox bethought himself how he might best get free; and thrusting his other hand down betwixen his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by the flanks, and he wzung him so extremely and hard thereby, that he made him chylek and howl out with the anguish: then the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much ado to contain himself from swooning: for his torment exceeded far the pain of his eye, and in the end he fell over and over in a swoond: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and drew him about the flanks, and dragg'd him by the leggs, and struck, wounded, and hit him in many places, so that all the whole field might take notice thereof.

At this, all Hegrim's friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and prayed him to be pleased to appease the Combat, and take it into his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Reynard and the Lesson (being Marshals) entered the Lists, and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would speak with them, and that the battel should there end, for he would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: as for themselves, they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what pleaseth my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey, for mine ambition is no further than to be victor: Therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason: so presently came forth Dame Slopard and Grimbold her husband, Dame Rukew with her two sisters, Bichel and Falump her two sons, and Malice her Daughter, the field-hounds, the weasel, and Abads an hundred which would not have come

of Reynard the Fox.

if the Fox had lost the conquest : for to him that hath honour, will ever flock attendants; but to him that is in loss, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, the Fox came to the Weber, the Otter, and both their wives Pauncerrote, and Ordigale, and the Ostrole, the Martin, and the Fitchews, the Ferrit, the Squirrel, and a world more than I can name, and all because he was the victor : nay, others which before had complained of him, were now of nearest kindred ; and ready to do him all service. This is the fashion of the world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poor or hungry for friendship, every one will seem to love him, every one will imitate his fashions.



Then was a solemn feast held ; Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winded, Shatwms, and all instruments warbled, and every one cried, Praised be heaven for this glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladness : Then asked their opinions, whether he should yield the victory to the King or no : and Dame

The pleasant History

Slopard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your honour, nor may you deny it. And (for the Archbishops going before, they went all to the King, guarding the for on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrels sounding before him,



When

of Reynard the Fox.

When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King made him stand up, and said to him, Reynard, you may well rejoyce, for you have won much honor this day; therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your own will leads you, for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it discuss by the wisest of the Kingdom, as soon as Hegerims wounds shall be cured, at what time I will send for you, and so proceed to Judgment.

O my worthy and dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well appaid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highness Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my Life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by joining with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater favour than I with your Majesty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghill, where they waited for such as should bring them meat; anon they saw a Hound come out of the Kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding, away he went with his booty: but when his fellows perceived him, they called to him, and said, O how much art thou bound to the good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, you speak according to your knowledg, and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please to look upon me behind on my Buttocks, you shall find how dearly I paid for it; and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the hair and skin flayed from his hinder loins, they began to be agast and amazed at his torment; neither would they have any more of his fellowship, but fled and ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possess

E 2

their

The pleasant History

their desires, and are mighty and renowned: then do they extort, pill and poll the poor and needy, and eat them up like so many hunger-starved Hounds; for they are the Dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them; but praise all their actions: no man dare to offend them; nay, many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, only that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

O (my dear Lord) how can those men go safely, which go thus blind-fold? O, how can they expect but a shameful fall, whose steps are so uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are disclosed, but continual curses and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction: many of these have lost their hair (which is their friends) as the Hounds did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the Dog which was scalded.

My Gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatness of your virtue, for doubtless many of these evil extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lords houses, who out-face the poor, and sell away their freedoms and privileges, and threaten things upon them which they never knew, thought, or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are vile, and Heaven hath for them a judgment: but of these errors, I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit our selves nobly from the same. I fear no creatures accusations; For I will ever be the Fox, though all my foes swear to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wisdom divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gasp: and though Malice have told your Highness to the contrary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will do to the last moment.

of *Reynard the Fox.*

CHAP. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the
greatest in his Land; and of his noble return home
with all his kindred.

The King said, Reynard, you are one that owe me ho-
mage and fealty, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it; And soz



The pleasant History

your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my Privy Council. Take heed you do not any thing unworthily, for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot miss you: for you are a Star, whose lustre exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the Moral you your self told me, and be a lover of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that Creature in any Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall Proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of High Wayliffe here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King, but he told them it was much short of that he intended to do for their sakes; and advised them all to admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. Then said Dame Rukewaw, We lieve it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear you the contrary; for should he prove otherwise, we would renounce him. Then the Fox also thanked the King with fast and courteous words, saying, My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these high honours you do me, yet will ever study with my service how to deserve them: my shall my best Counsel at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruin the Bear, Tibbert the Cat, and Arsewinde and her Children, with the rest of their Lineage, drew the Wolf out of the field, and laid him upon soft Litter, and Hay, and covered him all over betwix warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgeons. His sickness and weakness was so great, that his feeling was lost; but they rubbed and chased him on the temples,



The Morall

By these hon-
ors done to
the Fox by
the Lyon,
is shewed,
that seldom
one good for-
tune cometh
without ano-
ther; and he
that hath
once atchie-
ved fame and
renown, to
him will the
world fly, and
dignity on
dignity shall
be heaped
upon him: as
on the con-
trary part, he
that is once
fallen either
in state or re-
putation, it is
a thing of
much difficul-
ty to see him
advanced
without mi-
racle; for
worldly men

temples and under the eyes, till he leapt out of his swoond,
and howled so loud, that all were amazed which heard him;
but the Physicians gave him Cordials to drinke, and a Dozmt,
ture of potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his
wife, telling her there was no danger or peril of his life. So
the Court brake up, & every Beast return'd to his own home.

Amongst

The pleasant History

upon him &
worrie him.

But wise men
or good men
(for both are
scarce) are
said to be like
Hogs; which
when one of
their kind is
down, all the
rest will pre-
sently assist
and helphim.

For any
thing else
contained in
this Chapter,
it is either
Moralized by
the speeches
of the Fox,
or else by the
Author.

Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leave of the King and Queen, they desired him not to be long absent from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And so begging licence of his Majesty in all solemn manner, and with faire speech, he departed the Court.



Of Reynard the Fox.

Was there ever any Creature flattered braver, or to better purpose? for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the Eight liberal Sciences? And no Lord whether Spiritual or Temporal, but would have an ear open for all his Language. For died he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed, he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth: Though he want his hair, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is now an Exile, and Covetousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements; the Pope's Palace, the Courts of Emperors, Kings and Princes, cannot be exempted from this error.

Money is now grown the only Favourite of the time; the very Church, School, and the Country, Worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things: And Mad-men Travel over the World, to gain this folly, this fashion. Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the worlds custom; and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Only that these hateful sins of Falshood, Theft, Murder, and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment. From which I heartily pray that the Hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to virtue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit Themes for me to treat off, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own behaviour.

With Reynard, all his friends and Kinsfolks, to the number of forty, took their leaves also of the King, and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature, that he had sped well, and stood so far in the Kings favour: for now he had power enough to advance whom he pleased, and pull down any that envied his fortune.

The pleasant History

After some travel the Fox and all his friends came to his
Bozough or Castle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble
and courteous manner) took leave of other, and Reynard did



to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for
the love and honour he had received of them; protesting ever-
more to remain their faithful servant, and to serve them in
all

of *Reynard the Fox.*

all things wherein his life or goods might be serviceable unto them: and took hands and departed.

The Fox went in to Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: & to her and her children he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court: and mist no little or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his daies from thenceforth (with his Wife and Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or less than you have heard, I would not wish you to butle any faith upon his reports. Only this which you have already heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Notwithstanding if any refuse, he shall not be accounted an Heretic, since he that only saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this World believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Moral which figure out things that never were, only to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Virtue. In like manner, this Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if ye look seriously thereunto, ye may haply find much Moral matter and wisdom, worth your consideration. Goodness, nor any Good man shall ye find in it discrepited, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as his conscience shall so instruct him: if any man find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment. If any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stumbling: And if any take distast or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his Language. But if all things suit to my wished imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to set into the World with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Morals.





A

Table of the Contents of all the Chapters.

- H**ow the Lyon Proclaimed a Solemn Feast at his Court: And
how *Ifegrim* the Wolf and his Wife, und *Curtise* the Hound
made the first complaint of *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 1.
How *Grimbard* the Brock spake for *Reynard* to the King. Chap. 2.
How *Chantecleer* the Cock complained of *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 3.
The Kings answer to the Cocks Complaint, and how they sung the
Dirgd. Chap. 4.
How *Bruine* the Bear, sped with *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 5.
How the King sent *Tybert* the Cat, for *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 6.
How *Tybert* the Cat was deceived by *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 7.
How *Grimbard* the Brock was sent to bring the Fox to the Court,
Chap. 8.
How *Reynard* shrove him to *Grimbard* the Brock. Chap. 9.
How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excused himself.
Chap. 10.
How the Fox was arrested, and judged to death. Chap. 11.
How the Fox made his Confession before the King. Chap. 12.
How *Reynard* the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the Kings
Commandment. Chap. 13.
How *Ifegrim* and his wife *Arsewind* had their shoo's pluckt off for
Reynard to wear to Rome. Chap. 14.
How *Kayward* the Hare was slain by *Reynard* the Fox, and his head
sent

The Table.

- sent by the Ram to the King. Chap. 15.
How *Bellin* the Ram and his lineage were given to the Bear and the Wolf. Chap. 16.
How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for revenge, and how *Reynard* was forewarned of *Grimbard* and the Brock. Chap. 17.
How the Fox repenting his sins, doth make confession, and is absolved by the Brock. Chap. 18.
How *Reynard* the Fox excused himself before the King, and the Kings Answer. Chap. 19.
How dame *Rukenaw* answered for the Fox to the King, and of the parable she told. Chap. 20.
How *Reynard* excused himself of *Kaynard's* death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour, and made a relation of certain Jewels. Chap. 21.
How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Isgrim* the Wolf complained of him again. Chap. 22.
How *Isgrim* profered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted; and how *Rukenaw* advised the Fox to carry himself in the fight. Chap. 23.
Of the combat between the Fox and the Wolf; the events, passages and victory. Chap. 24.
How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in the Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred. Chap. 25.

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